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# The Advocate Messenger

WEEKEND EDITION, APRIL 11-12-2026 | VOL. 148, NO. 29

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## Danville commission hears updates on county projects

*Courthouse bell removal discussed; meeting available online*

**By Josely Labarrere**  
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — The Danville City Commission met in a special called session Thursday, April 2, at City Hall, where members received updates from county leadership and

heard presentations from a broad group of shared and community agencies.

The meeting opened at 8 a.m. with Mayor J.H. Atkins calling the session to order. Boyle County Judge-Executive Trille Bottom then addressed the commission, providing updates on county-related matters and ongoing projects.

A significant portion of the meeting was devoted to presentations from organizations

that partner with or receive support from the city and county. Shared agency updates were delivered by representatives from the airport board, Danville-Boyle County Development Corporation, planning and zoning and the Economic Development Authority, each outlining current initiatives and priorities.

Community agencies also presented to the commission, highlighting services and pro-

gramming available to local residents. Those groups included the Arts Commission, Boyle-Mercer County Helping Hands, Boyle County Homeless Coalition, CASA of the Bluegrass, Soul of Second Street, Danville Small Town Christmas, the Sister Cities Commission, Dolly Parton Imagination Library committee, Family Services, Great American Brass Band Festival, Haven Care Center, All Together Recovery,

Pioneer Playhouse, Shepherd's House, West T. Hill Community Theatre and the Art Center of the Bluegrass.

During her update, Bottom also addressed ongoing concerns involving the Boyle County Courthouse bell tower. She said the issue was first identified about two years ago when a structural concern was noticed in one of the tower's

See **DANVILLE**, 2A



SISTER CITIES COMMISSION

Carrickfergus Mayor Jackson Minford, left, and Deputy Mayor Tyler Hoey pose for a photo with portraits of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, and the Duke and Duchess of Wales, William and Kate Middleton, whose titles include Baron and Baroness of Carrickfergus.

## Carrickfergus Officials to Visit Danville for Sister City Exchange

**Special to the Advocate-Messenger**

DANVILLE — The mayor, deputy mayor and chief development officer of Carrickfergus's council will visit Danville from April 16-20 to

learn more about the city's Sister City relationship and plan future exchanges.

Current Mayor Jackson Minford will be replaced by Deputy Mayor Tyler Hoey on July 1.

During their visit, the dele-

gation will meet with Danville Mayor J.H. Atkins, Boyle County Judge-Executive Trille Bottom, Centre College President Milton Moreland, Convention and Visitors Bureau Chief Executive Kendall

See **VISIT**, 2A

## Bate eighth graders host literary food truck festival

*Project blends reading, creativity and presentation skills*

**By Josely Labarrere**  
Advocate Messenger

DANVILLE — Eighth grade students at John W. Bate Middle School recently combined literature and creativity through a unique classroom project that culminated in a Literary Food Truck Festival.

The project, led by English/language arts teachers Keva Buckley, Elaine Wilson-Reddy, Rachyl Stonebraker and student teacher T.J. Bryant, challenged students to design a food truck inspired by a book of their choice.

Students were tasked with developing a concept that included a truck design, menu and additional creative elements such as playlists tied to the story, marketing materials, themed merchandise, uniforms or even food and drink samples.

Before beginning, students reviewed model projects and grading expectations before selecting books. Library Media Specialist Lynyel Duggins helped facilitate the selection process by organizing a "Blind Date with a Book" activity in the school library, though students also had the option to choose other titles.

Buckley said students showed strong engagement throughout the process, which required both critical thinking and creativity.

Students spent approximately four weeks developing their projects in class. Teachers used a workshop-style approach, incorporating mini-lessons focused on reading skills, independent reading time and ongoing feedback to help students

See **BATE**, 2A

## Garage fire extinguished near Perryville

**By Josely Labarrere**  
Advocate Messenger

PERRYVILLE — Firefighters responded to a late-night structure fire Monday near Perryville, where a garage was heavily damaged and a nearby home was threatened by flames.

According to the Boyle County Fire Department, crews were dispatched by Danville

911 Center at approximately 10:16 p.m. to the area of Springfield Road and U.S. 150 for a reported possible structure fire.

When firefighters arrived, they located a garage that was heavily involved in fire. A nearby residence, located only a few feet away, was in danger of being affected as flames spread.

Crews immediately began an

aggressive fire attack to contain the blaze while also initiating a primary search of the residence to check for occupants.

During the search, firefighters located one individual inside the home who was unaware of the fire. Crews quickly removed the individual from the residence and confirmed there were no injuries.

See **GARAGE**, 2A



DANVILLE SCHOOLS

Students serve food and drinks while presenting their book-themed projects during the Literary Food Truck Festival at John W. Bate Middle School.

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**Danville, Kentucky**

\$1.50 Newsstand



# Coleman champions agriculture with multistate resolution

By Tom Latek  
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT— Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, along with her counterparts from four other states, co-sponsored a resolution recognizing American agriculture and its impact on the world, which passed at a National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) meeting.



Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman speaks at a news conference.

“Agriculture is a foundational industry in Kentucky and America,” said Coleman, who will become chair of NLGA in July. “I believe, now more than ever, our farmers need to know their elected leaders stand with them and are working toward solutions that will help them in today’s challenging environment.”

The resolution seeks to raise awareness among Americans on the significant contributions the agriculture industry has when it comes to our economy, job creation and more.

According to Feeding the Economy, the American impact from agriculture is immense. Agriculture accounts for more than 48 million jobs, \$3 trillion in wages and more than \$177 billion in exports. According to Kentucky Agriculture Works, Kentucky is home

to nearly 70,000 farms. Of those, 97% are family-owned, with an average size of 179 acres. These farms account for nearly \$50 billion annually in economic impact. Just under half of Kentucky’s land is considered farmland.

Like many Kentuckians, agriculture is a way of life for Lt. Gov. Coleman. She grew up on her family’s farm in Burgin and has used her position as lieutenant governor to bolster the agriculture industry. Along with Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell and Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher, Lt. Gov. Coleman created Kentucky’s “All in for Agriculture Education Week” to increase exposure to agriculture education to all elementary schools in Kentucky. This innovative program provides hands-

on lessons, immersive experiences and community engagement that bring agriculture, food and standards-based learning into every subject.

“Our farming families face unique challenges that will have an impact not only in Kentucky, but the world,” Coleman noted. “We know the farming population in Kentucky is aging and farmland is shrinking. Kentucky feeds the world, so it is incumbent upon all of us to work together to provide greater exposure to agriculture, and the vast array of careers it encompasses, to elementary students across the Commonwealth.”

NLGA, organized in 1962, is the professional association for the elected officials first in line of succession to the governors in the 50 states and five U.S. territories. T



DANVILLE SCHOOLS

Students present their book-themed food truck projects during the Literary Food Truck Festival at John W. Bate Middle School.

## BATE

Continued from 1A

apply what they learned to their chosen texts.

Students worked individually or in small groups, with each participant assigned specific responsibilities. Guided notes aligned with the project rubric helped keep students on track as they developed their ideas.

Teachers also prepared

extensively before introducing the project, meeting regularly to plan lessons and even completing their own sample projects to demonstrate expectations.

In addition to the festival project, students are continuing to build literacy skills through activities on the BookTaco app and will complete an argumentative essay explaining and supporting their creative decisions.

During the festival, adult visitors evaluated the projects and voted on awards in categories such as most creative design and most engaging presentation.

The project was supported by a teacher grant funded by the Danville Schools Education Foundation and the Danville Schools Alumni Association, which helped make the experience possible for students.

## DANVILLE

Continued from 1A

columns. Further evaluation by an engineer determined that the weight and age of the bell have contributed to stress within the structure.

Bottom said an architect has since been hired to assist with developing a plan, and updated designs are expected in the near future. As part of that process, officials are preparing to remove the bell and the cupola to relieve pressure on the

tower.

The removal is expected to take place in early May, when a crane will be used to lift the components from the structure. Bottom said the bell will be stored safely and could later be placed on public display, with potential locations including Weisiger Park or Constitution Square.

She emphasized that the courthouse itself remains stable, but said removing the bell is a preventative measure intended to avoid further structural issues.

Commissioners also discussed logistical considerations surrounding the removal, including access points for equipment and coordination with court operations inside the building.

The meeting concluded following the agency presentations and discussion.

Residents who were unable to attend can view the full meeting, including all presentations and discussion, on the City of Danville’s official YouTube page.

# DEA's Drug Take Back Day offers safe medication disposal

By Tom Latek  
Kentucky Today

LOUISVILLE – It’s time to go through your medicine cabinets now, as the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will host the 30th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at nearly 4,200 locations nationwide.

Twice a year, DEA joins forces with local law enforcement and community groups to host DEA’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, giving the public a safe and anonymous way to dispose of expired and unused prescription medications. By getting rid of unnecessary medications in the home, families can help prevent prescription drug misuse and reduce the potential for accidental poisonings.

“Removing unused and expired medications from your home and disposing of them properly is a simple but

powerful step in preventing prescription drug misuse,” said DEA Administrator Terrance Cole. “DEA’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a critical public safety initiative that we have hosted for 16 years. Its continued success is due, in large part, to our local and state law enforcement and community partners who continue to stand with us to make our communities safe.”

Special Agent in Charge Jim Scott, who heads DEA’s Louisville Field Division, stated, “Cleaning out your home medicine cabinet and safely disposing of unneeded or expired medications is a great way to help safeguard the community by keeping potentially harmful pills off of our streets. It’s a small act that can pay big dividends.”

Since 2010, DEA’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day has provided an easy and accessible way to dispose of medications that could pose a threat if

misused. Over the past 16 years, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day has removed more than 20 million pounds of unwanted medications from communities across the United States.

DEA and its partners will collect tablets, capsules, patches, and other forms of prescription drugs. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should be securely sealed in their original container.

Syringes, sharps, or illicit drugs are not collected.

There are at least 60 collection sites in Kentucky. To find the location nearest you visit [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com).

For those unable to participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, there are more than 16,500 pharmacies, hospitals, and businesses that offer safe medication disposal year-round. In addition, many police departments also provide permanent drop boxes to ensure Every Day is Take Back Day.

and preventing the fire from spreading to the nearby home.

Following the initial response, crews remained on scene for about two hours conducting overhaul operations. This process included extin-

guishing remaining hot spots and ensuring the fire was fully contained.

Officials said all units have since cleared the scene.

No injuries were reported as a result of the fire.

## VISIT

Continued from 1A

Clinton, the Danville Sister Cities Commission and other local leaders.

The public is invited to attend an “Irish Evening” welcoming event at Morley’s Backyard on Friday, April 17. A short program will begin at 7:30

p.m., followed by musical entertainment from Conrad Shiba, Travis Kern and Shane White. The three Danville musicians recently participated in a Sister Cities music exchange in Ireland and will perform Irish music.

On Saturday, April 18, the visitors will be guests of honor at a Rotary

International dinner held at the airport in celebration of the Danville club’s 100th anniversary.

During their stay, the Carrickfergus officials will also tour two Boyle County horse farms, Wilderness Trail Distillery, Shaker Village and Keeneland with members of the 14-member Sister Cities Commission.

## GARAGE

Continued from 1A

Firefighters were able to bring the fire under control in approximately 10 minutes, limiting the extent of the damage

OPEN: M/W/F • 9:30 AM-5:30 PM | T/Th • 9:30 AM-8 PM | Sat • 10 AM-5 PM

## LIBRARY EVENTS & SERVICES

<p><b>Baby Storytime</b> Mondays • 10 AM (COMM. ROOM; 0-18 MOS)</p> <p><b>YA Creative Club</b> Tue. 4/14 • 3:30-5 PM (TECH LOUNGE; 11-17)</p> <p><b>Stories of Downtown Walking Tour</b> Wednesdays • 11 AM (GRAYSON'S TAVERN; ALL AGES)</p> <p><b>Connect with KYNECT</b> Wed. 4/15 • 2-4 PM (COMPUTER LAB; 18+)</p> <p><b>Gaming Guild Jr.</b> Thu. 4/16 • 3:30-5 PM (YOUTH DEPT.; 6-10)</p> <p><b>Just Try It: Yoga</b>   Thu. 4/16 • 6 PM With Francine Southerland. (COMMUNITY ROOM; 18+)</p> <p><b>Quilting in Kentucky: Stitch &amp; Stories</b> Fridays • 10 AM-12 PM (GRAYSON'S TAVERN; ALL AGES)</p> <p><b>Homeschool Club</b> Fri. 4/17 • 1:30-3 PM (COMMUNITY ROOM; 6-17)</p> <p><b>ASD Friends &amp; Allies: NERF Night</b> Sat. 4/18 • 6:30 PM (5TH LEVEL; 18+)</p>	<p><b>Storytime</b> Tue. &amp; Fri. • 11 AM (YOUTH DEPARTMENT; 1-5)</p> <p><b>Boyle Co. Writers</b> Tue. 4/14 • 5:30-8 PM (CONFERENCE ROOM; 18+)</p> <p><b>Third Thursday Book Club</b> Thu. 4/16 • 10:30 AM (CONFERENCE ROOM; 18+)</p> <p><b>YA Gaming Guild</b> Thu. 4/16 • 3:30-5 PM (COMMUNITY ROOM; 11-17)</p> <p><b>Quilt Design</b> Sat. 4/18 • 10 AM-4 PM (GRAYSON'S TAVERN; ALL AGES)</p>
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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING & KY CHAUTAUQUA

KENTUCKY HUMANITIES presents Anne Shelby as  
**Aunt Molly Jackson**  
*Pistol Packin' Woman*  
**Tuesday, April 14 | 4 pm**

“Paintings by Peggy” Art Exhibit

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# God makes families whole in ways we don't expect

“He sets the lonely in families.” Psalm 68:6  
I never imagined I would become part of the statistics of divorce. Few people do. Divorce is rarely the plan, and for many, it carries a deep sense of loss and disappointment. Scripture is clear that divorce was never God’s ideal, but it is also clear that God is a Redeemer.



**TIFFANY JOHNSON STILL WATERS**

That truth matters, especially for blended families. Blended families are not a modern phenomenon. They are woven throughout scripture, offering reassurance that families formed through unexpected paths are not unfamiliar to God. Yet many blended families carry a quiet ache. A ache of what was lost, what changed, and what didn’t unfold as hoped.

Blended homes often come with layers of history: different personalities, traditions, and wounds that existed long before the family came together. Love may coexist with grief. Hope may sit alongside uncertainty. These complexities can leave families feeling like they are somehow falling short of what a family is “supposed” to look like.

- But the Bible tells a different story.
- Abraham’s home was blended.
- Jacob’s home was blended.
- David’s home was blended.
- Joseph raised a child who was not biologically his own.

Ruth married into a new family and became part of the lineage of Jesus.

God did not wait for families to look perfect before working through them. He worked through what was real.

Blended families often feel pressure to connect instantly, as though closeness and peace should come automatically. But healing takes time. God often works slowly, building relationships layer by layer, heart by heart.

That means families don’t have to force closeness or pretend things are easy. There is no requirement to make everyone feel the same way at the same time. Faith means letting go of control and trusting God with the process.

Our role in blended families is actually simple, though not easy.

- We show up with grace.
- We love consistently.
- We speak gently.
- We pray faithfully.

And we trust God with the things we cannot control.

God is not asking for perfection. He knows that is impossible. What He asks for is presence and to stay engaged, to keep loving, and to remain faithful even when progress feels slow.

Blended families carry stories marked by loss, divorce, death, disappointment, broken trust, and new beginnings. None of these disqualifies a family from hope.

Redemption is God’s specialty!

He has a way of taking what was fractured and making it fruitful. He takes what was painful and, over time, gives it purpose.

Families shaped by unexpected circumstances are still held together by a “Redeemer” who knows how to restore a broken past.

If blended families have a secret ingredient, it is grace.

- Grace for what came before.
- Grace for the present reality.
- Grace for the uneven, sometimes messy journey of becoming a family.
- Grace for the days when emotions run high.

God’s grace is not fragile. It is steady, strong, and sufficient to hold every heart.

A Prayer for Blended Families

Father, thank You for the stories of blended families. Thank you that nothing about our story disqualifies us from your love or your purpose. Heal what has been wounded. Bind what has been broken. Grow what feels slow. Give us patience, tenderness, and wisdom. Teach us to love like You love through faithfulness, gently, and without fear. Make our homes a place of peace, stability, and blessing. God, please, write a new legacy through us, one marked by redemption and grace.

In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

Tiffany

## DEATH NOTICES

Rancel Roy, 74, of Windsor, died April 4, 2026.

Barbara Jean Arnold, 76, of Danville, died April 5, 2026.

Carla Humes, 61, of Liberty, died April 5, 2026.

Dana Marie Nichols, 54, of Lawrenceburg, died April 4, 2026.

Nels Douglas Pierson, 76, of Danville, died April 5, 2026.

Mary Lou Sowders, 78, of Stanford, died April 6, 2026.

Shirley Ann Hammons Smith, 86, of Waynesburg, died April 6, 2026.

Wesley Reed, 72, of Lexington, died April 6, 2026.

Margaret Louise Lowe, 88, of Harrodsburg, died April 7, 2026.

Samuel “Sonny” Averitt Glasscock, Jr, 79, of Perryville, died April 7, 2026.

Keith Spears, 70, of Moreland, died April 6, 2026.

John Hughes Erwin, 60, of Danville, died April 7, 2026.

# Ky. Supreme Court halts impeachment proceedings against Lexington judge

**By Mckenna Horsley**  
*Kentucky Lantern*

The Kentucky Supreme Court is ordering lawmakers to drop impeachment proceedings against a circuit judge in Lexington.

In a 5-1 opinion issued Monday afternoon, the state’s high court said that the legislature’s impeachment of Fayette Circuit Judge Julie Goodman “encroaches upon the inherent powers of the Judicial Branch” and violates the separation of powers among branches of government.

“Judges must remain free to exercise the constitutional authority bestowed upon them by the electorate to decide the cases and controversies before them without fear that a legally incorrect ruling or even an appellate finding of abuse of discretion will result in the extreme sanction of impeachment,” says the opinion written by Chief Justice Debra Hembree Lambert.

Concurring in the opinion were Justices Kelly Thompson, Angela McCormick Bisig and Deputy Chief Justice Robert Conley. Justice Shea Nickell dissented. Thompson wrote a concurring opinion. Justice Pamela Goodwine recused herself from the case.

The Kentucky House forwarded articles of impeachment against Goodman to the Senate earlier this month. The resolution accuses Goodman of committing “misdemeanors in office,” but House lawmakers did not unanimously agree about Goodman’s conduct while debating the petition.

The court’s majority cited several flaws in the House’s case against Goodman, including:

The impeachment petition was invalid because it was not verified by an affidavit as required by law.

None of the allegations of misconduct against Goodman rose to the level required for impeachment.

The impeachment hearing did not afford Goodman due process because five of her six actions at issue involved still active cases. She could not defend herself

because Kentucky judges are prohibited from making public statements that could affect the outcome of pending cases.

The justices say that the allegations of misconduct against Goodman should have instead been referred to the Judicial Conduct Commission.

The majority also found that Goodman would face irreparable harm if impeached and removed from office, including being stripped of retirement benefits accrued over 20 years and never being able to hold another public office.

In conclusion, Lambert wrote that the Kentucky Constitution does not give the legislature “unfettered authority to conduct unconstitutional impeachment proceedings based on the mundane, discretionary actions of a judge that are within the exclusive authority of this branch to address,” as the state has “co-equal branches of government.”

“Yet the Respondents would have us interpret it (or more to the point, not interpret it) such that the Legislature may have the complete, unchecked power to impeach judicial branch officials for matters which our Constitution gives this branch the authority to address,” she said. “This would not be co-equal. It would be tyrannical.”

Thompson wrote in his concurring opinion that impeachment should rarely “be needed” and only used in cases where official misconduct occurred, or a “misdemeanor in office” as described in the Kentucky Constitution.

“Officials cannot be impeached for a traffic ticket. They cannot be impeached based on a political disagreement or an unpopular decision,” Thompson wrote. “They cannot be impeached because they have blue eyes. They can only be impeached for criminal conduct that occurs during their term of office.”

Nickell said in his dissent that he “discern no basis in our Constitution, precedents, and tradition to support the issuance of a supervisory writ to control the leg-

islature’s authority over impeachment” in contrast to the majority opinion. He also disagreed with the defects in the petition being “a fundamental, fatal flaw” in the impeachment of Goodman.

In his conclusion, Nickell said that his “determination that the General Assembly possesses constitutional authority to initiate and maintain the instant impeachment proceedings should not be understood as condoning its exercise of that authority,” but he disagreed with other justices that the state Constitution “authorizes courts to adjudicate questions relative to impeachments,” which is a legislative power.

Goodman first asked the Franklin Circuit Court to intervene in the legislative proceedings, but Judge Phillip Shepherd declined. She then appealed to the Kentucky Supreme Court.

However, Shepherd issued a ruling last week declaring the impeachment “null and void,” but noted the outcome would lie with the state Supreme Court and Senate. In his opinion, he pointed out that the Judicial Conduct Commission has the power to remove judges, but the allegations against Goodman were not referred to it. Under Kentucky law, the commission was created by the Judicial Article adopted in 1976.

Thompson also wrote about the efficiency of the JCC, saying it “works vigorously to address complaints against judges” and the high court has the power to review those decisions.

Thompson warned that allowing the impeachment against Goodman “to go unchecked even though it does not meet the constitutional standards to impeach, would be allowing the legislature to fully control the judiciary.”

“The legislature’s aggressive actions toward the judiciary appear to be an organized assault on the independence of the judiciary utilizing the legislature as the weapon. We cannot allow the legislature to arbitrarily threaten impeachment based on its dislike of any of our

rulings,” Thompson said, noting that three of the five impeachment petitions reviewed by the House committee this year involved judges.

The court case has shaped up as a test of the judicial and legislative branches’ system of checks and balances. The legislative process does not allow for appeal of the Senate’s decision in impeachment proceedings.

An attorney for House Republicans asked that Justice Pamela Goodwine recuse herself from ruling on the Goodman matter because the House Impeachment Committee had reviewed a separate impeachment petition against Goodwine this year, which had stemmed from a ruling criticized by Republicans. However, an attorney for Goodman argued that the petitions were “completely unrelated” and had asked Goodwine to reconsider her recusal.

The Kentucky General Assembly recessed for its veto period last week, and the Senate is expected to take up its impeachment trial regarding Goodman on April 16. According to the impeachment proceeding rules adopted by the Senate, a hearing could begin soon.

The impeachment petition against Goodman was filed by former Republican state Rep. Killian Timoney, who is seeking reelection to the seat. Some of the cases at the center of Timoney’s petition are still pending in courts.

Fayette County voters elected Goodman to the bench in 2019 to fill an unexpired term and reelected her in 2022 for a full eight-year term.

An impeachment proceeding is a rare occurrence in the Kentucky Senate. The chamber held its last impeachment trial in 2023 and unanimously convicted former prosecutor Ronnie Goldy who asked a defendant for nude images in exchange for prosecutorial favors. Goldy was later convicted on federal fraud and bribery charges and sentenced to 41 months. Before that, the Senate last held an impeachment trial in 1888 against former state Treasurer “Honest Dick” Tate, who was tried for stealing nearly \$200,000 in state funds.

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 Josely Labarere • 859-469-6426  
 josely.labarere@bluegrassnewsmedia.com

# Legislation could help protection children against social media

By **Richard Nelson**  
Commonwealth Policy Center

The Kentucky State House passed a bill restricting social media use for kids 15 and younger on March 9. The bill is now stalled in the State Senate. Perhaps a landmark legal ruling last week against Meta, which found them guilty of persistently violating New Mexico's consumer protection laws, will jar it loose.

New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez said in a press release on March 25, "Meta executives knew their products harmed children, disregarded warnings from their own employees, and lied to the public about what they knew." Torrez led a two-year investigation that uncovered internal documents of a Meta "Deactivation Study", where employees found that users who stopped using Facebook and Instagram for a week showed lower rates of depression, anxiety, and loneliness. Meta buried the findings.

An unnamed Meta employee said that "If the results are bad

and we don't publish and they leak, is it going to look like tobacco companies doing research and knowing cigs were bad and then keeping that info to themselves?" What a fitting reference to Big Tobacco's denial of tobacco's addictive qualities and harmful health effects in the 1990s, and marketing schemes to recruit a new generation of smokers.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) found that the Joe Camel cartoon character campaign illegally targeted minors, encouraging them to smoke. In the case of social media, Meta knew about serious risks to minors including exposure to harmful content, failure to keep kids under age 13 off the platform, and weak safeguards against child predators.

In 2017, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg suggested that "teen time spent be our top goal," according to a company executive quoted in a legal brief. Meta's growth team determined that a private-by-default setting (which would keep predators and unsolicited and dangerous

content away) would result in a loss of 1.5 million monthly teen users on Instagram. An unnamed Meta employee said "taking away unwanted interactions... is likely to lead to a potentially untenable problem with engagement and growth." Research is making clear that Big Social Media's "growth" comes with a high cost to minors.

Social media addiction in minors is emerging in low test scores, decreased attention spans, and overall poor mental health. Social media platforms are also a playground for bullies. They've become a pool where child predators lurk. Platforms like Instagram with their 17-strikes policy of sexual solicitation to teens before blocking pedophiles demonstrates a low threshold for criminal behavior and poor job of self-policing. An audit of Instagram in 2022 found that their recommendation features suggested over 1.4 million "potentially inappropriate adults" to teens in a single day.

Aspects of social media play like a slot machine: infinite

scrolling reels, push notifications, and autoplay features are built in to foster compulsive use. All add up to a dopamine rush making it difficult for kids to pull away. Addiction is part of the business plan. In 2024, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy was convinced of the harm it was causing kids and called for a warning label on social media platforms because they are linked to significant mental health issues.

Currently, HB 227 would require the largest social media companies to block minors 15 and younger from access, unless parents choose to opt their children in. As it is, they can determine in short order the age of their patrons, making it an easy task.

According to a 2022 study by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, TikTok, X, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat raked in \$11 billion in marketing and advertising revenue aimed at minors. But kids shouldn't be seen merely as revenue streams in any context. They are vulnerable, susceptible

to manipulation, and need adults to protect them until they're able to make reasoned judgments for themselves. For their sake, we must minimize harm in order for the best chance of future health and happiness.

Opponents of regulation argue that parents are responsible for policing their own kids' social media use. Of course, parents play an outsized role. Yet, social pressures from their peers often prove too strong. "But mom, all my friends are on Instagram!" One thing the New Mexico ruling made clear is that parents need help to stand against an exploitative industry that has failed to police itself and protect kids from harmful content and predators.

Big money is clearly at stake. That's why Meta's lobbyists are clouding the issue and trying to kill HB 227 this session. Perhaps this is a replay of Big Tobacco's smokescreen in the 1990s when they denied the health hazards of cigarettes. Something just as addictive and dangerous appears to be at stake. Hopefully our state legislature will notice and act.

## The new battle against addiction

The AG's Office has launched lawsuits against Roblox, TikTok, Meta and other social media platforms to keep Kentucky kids safe online.

For more than a decade, the fight against opioid addiction has been all-consuming. Progress has come – not enough and far too slowly – but every life saved makes the effort worthwhile.

Today, we have a new fight: protecting kids from the dangers facing them on their screens. Different addiction, but the same urgency.

Last month, we finally won a pair of major victories.

New Mexico won an historic jury verdict against Meta – the parent company of Facebook and Instagram – accusing the corporation of creating a breeding ground for child predators. The first phase of the trial, which put executives from one of the world's largest corporations on the stand, ended with an order for Meta to pay \$375 million. The second phase is scheduled for May and will bring court orders to prevent future harm perhaps including

additional monetary payments.

Then, a separate California jury found Meta and YouTube deliberately designed their apps to be addictive and damaging to young people. In that case, Meta will have to pay millions more.

The harm to our kids caused by Meta and other online platforms is both hard to quantify and something every parent can understand. Endless scrolling and dopamine-driven 'like' buttons suck our children in and never let them go. Innocent kids and their developing brains face off against the most sophisticated tech programmers on the planet. Our kids never really had a chance.

Accountability for these major social media platforms doesn't end with these verdicts. Kentucky is part of a 29-state coalition litigating against Meta in federal court, and we're set to go to trial later this year.

A brief history lesson: to counter the opioid addiction threat, Kentucky took major corporations responsible for the crisis to court to make them answer for the deaths caused and communities ravaged. Our Commonwealth will



**RUSSELL COLEMAN**

receive more than \$1 billion in settlements to invest in prevention, treatment and recovery efforts.

To make progress in the fight against drug addiction, we went after all parts of the industry – the manufacturers, distributors, marketers and the pharmacies themselves.

In this social media effort, we are casting a similarly broad net. In addition to Meta, we've filed cases against Google, TikTok and Roblox for creating addiction and exploitation machines.

Roblox is a particularly dangerous online environment for our children. Nearly two-thirds of all American kids ages 9-12 play games on Roblox. It has more monthly users than the population of the United States. Roblox's cartoonish features hide a truly sinister reality.

Despite repeated attempts to make the platform take child exploitation seriously, Roblox has allowed itself to become a playground for predators and a host for the foulest content – from Charlie Kirk assassination simulators to a game depicting a mass shooting in a shopping mall.

Kentucky was one of the first states to drag Roblox into court to answer for its abuses. And we're by no means the last. As more heart wrenching stories of grooming, kidnapping and self-harm come to light, we'll keep up this fight. Along the way, I'll continue encouraging parents to get their kids off Roblox until it can be made safe.

Despite the various social media platforms' differences, they all share a common priority: profit over safety. Each of them could strengthen safety protocols, enforce age verification, and end unnecessary chat features. The result would be tremendous progress in keeping kids safe from predators online.

Until they do, we will continue taking these massive tech companies to court and holding them

accountable for this generational harm.

Although we are zealously pursuing our lawsuits, this fight won't be won in the courtroom alone. We are proud to work with leading advocates and policy-makers in Frankfort and Washington – including our Congressman Brett Guthrie who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Jamie Comer, leader of the House Oversight Committee.

As always, parents are the last and best line of defense for our children. Armed with the truth about the dangers facing kids online, it's the responsibility of parents to set reasonable safeguards for their kids and help them develop, learn and grow in the real world away from screens.

This is the new fight of our time, and we're ready. The victories last month in New Mexico and California won't be the last.

## Horse racing warns of prediction markets' threat

Horse racing has always been built on a simple principle: the people who invest their time, money, and livelihoods into the sport deserve to share in its success. Owners, trainers, and jockeys take on real financial and personal risk to bring races to life, and for generations, the wagering system has been structured to ensure they are fairly compensated.

That balance is now being challenged.

I represent horsemen across the country, and I can tell you, this isn't theoretical. These are real people who wake up before dawn, care for these horses every day, and make the sport possible. When the integrity of the wagering system is compromised, it directly impacts their ability to sustain their businesses and continue participating in racing.

Wagering has never been treated as just another form of entertainment. States regulate it carefully because it generates



**ERIC HAMELBACK**

public revenue, ensures consumer protections, and supports entire industries. In horse racing, that system

has been refined over decades. When a wager is placed through approved pari-mutuel channels, it supports racetracks, funds purses, and helps sustain jobs and local economies.

What we're seeing now with so-called "prediction market" platforms is a clear attempt to sidestep that system.

These platforms claim to operate as financial exchanges under federal oversight, but many of their offerings look and function a lot like traditional wagering. The difference is they aren't playing by the same rules. They bypass state laws, avoid

taxes, and most importantly they don't compensate the people who actually put on the race.

This is the fundamental problem.

Congress addressed this exact issue decades ago through the Interstate Horseracing Act (IHA). The law is straightforward: if you're going to take wagers on horse racing, you need consent from the racetracks and the horsemen. That ensures the people generating the product have a say and receive their fair share.

When wagering happens outside that framework, horsemen are cut out entirely. Others profit from the races without sharing in the costs, the risks, or the responsibilities.

We've already seen this play out. Reports indicate that Poly-market alone handled around \$1.2 million in wagers tied to the 2025 Kentucky Derby. Under the existing system, that a percentage of that money would have flowed back into the industry supporting

purses, operations, and the broader racing ecosystem.

That's not just a loss of revenue, it's a breakdown of the structure that keeps the sport viable.

It also puts state regulators in a difficult position. They are responsible for overseeing wagering and ensuring it's conducted fairly, yet these platforms operate outside their authority while offering products that closely resemble regulated gambling. That creates an uneven playing field and undermines the regulatory framework that has been in place for years.

At its core, this is about fairness.

If a company is going to offer products that function like wagering, it should be held to the same standards as everyone else in the space. That means following state laws, contributing to public revenues, and respecting the rights of the people whose work makes those wagers pos-

sible.

Horse racing only works when the value it creates is shared among those who produce it. When that structure is ignored, it threatens the long-term stability of the industry.

This isn't about resisting innovation, but it is about ensuring that new platforms don't come in and exploit the system at the expense of the very people who make the sport possible.

Policymakers need to act to make sure federal frameworks aren't being used to bypass state authority or undermine longstanding protections. Because if we lose that balance, we risk losing far more than just revenue – we risk the future of the sport itself.

*Eric J. Hamelback is CEO of the National Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association (HBPA) and a leading voice on equine welfare, racing integrity, and federal and state policy impacting the horse racing industry.*

# SPORTS SLEUTH

LEFT-HANDED TOUR GOLFERS

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

Wednesday's unlisted clue: FLIPPERS

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

- |         |         |            |         |
|---------|---------|------------|---------|
| Bhatia  | Cochran | MacIntyre  | Russell |
| Bristow | Flesch  | Mickelson  | Smylie  |
| Bryant  | Harman  | Nettlefold | Weir    |
| Charles | Little  | O'Hern     |         |

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4/5

# WORD SLEUTH

THINGS LAYERED

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

Thursday's unlisted clue: WATSON

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

- |             |           |            |            |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Artichoke   | Jellyroll | Parfaits   | Skin       |
| Bureaucracy | Lasagna   | Pearls     | Tree rings |
| Cake        | Onions    | Rainforest | Veneer     |
| Glaciers    | Paint     | Sandwich   |            |

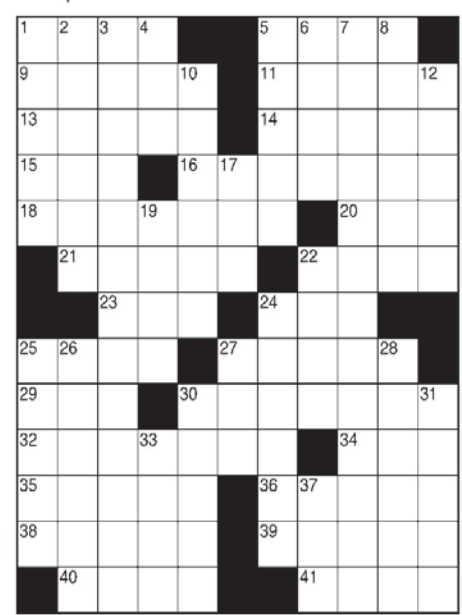
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4/10

# CROSSWORD

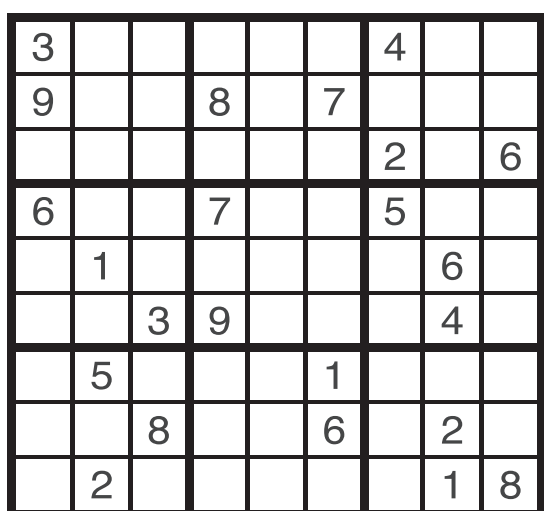
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Son of Adam
  - 5 Shaker fill
  - 9 Coldly distant
  - 11 Mariner's place
  - 13 Olympian in a sled
  - 14 Espresso order
  - 15 Pindar work
  - 16 Orchestra musicians
  - 18 Web user
  - 20 Braille bit
  - 21 Tear into tatters
  - 22 Sounds from angry fans
  - 23 Long, long time
  - 24 Me, to Michel
  - 25 Rhino feature
  - 27 Fence supports
  - 29 LAX guess
  - 30 Snuggly pets
  - 32 Heap of players celebrating a win
  - 34 Gangster's gun
  - 35 Targets
- DOWN**
- 36 Goddess of the hunt
  - 38 "Cats" poet
  - 39 Glossy
  - 40 Cuts off
  - 41 Low joint
  - 7 Staple Singers song
  - 8 Arm art
  - 10 Solid of Arabia\*
  - 12 High homes
  - 17 Garden area
  - 19 Magnetic metal
  - 22 Pear variety
  - 24 Powered bikes
  - 25 Yard border
  - 26 "Lawrence of Arabia" star
  - 27 Bud
  - 28 Posture
  - 30 Catalogs
  - 31 Tent
  - 33 Proceed slowly
  - 37 Sort



4-10

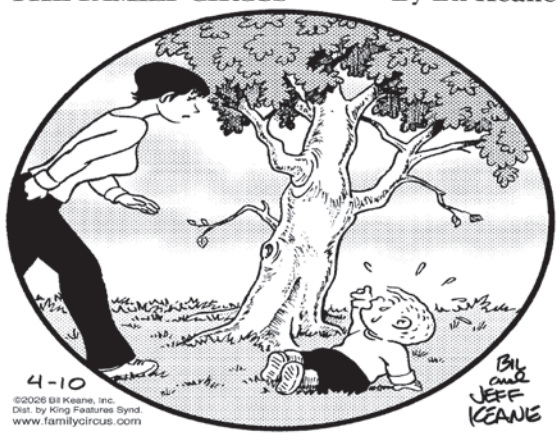
# SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

# THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



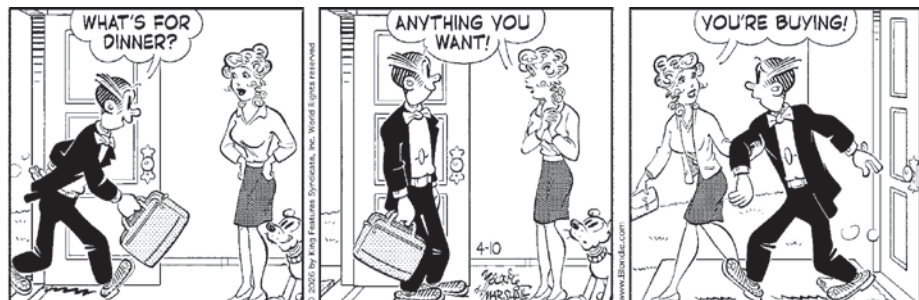
"I wasn't climbing it. I was tryin' to UNclimb it!"

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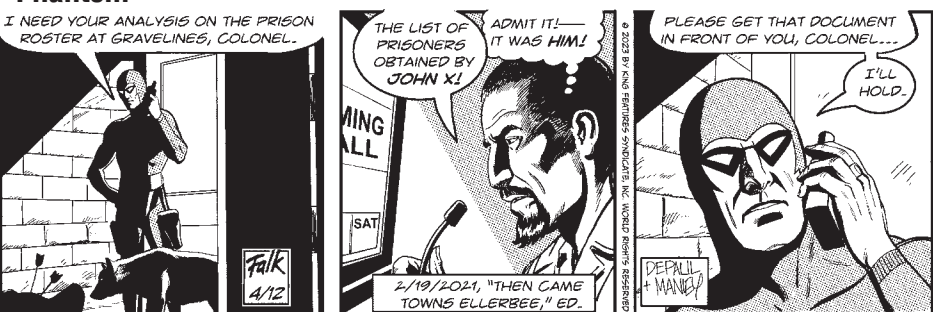
# Zits



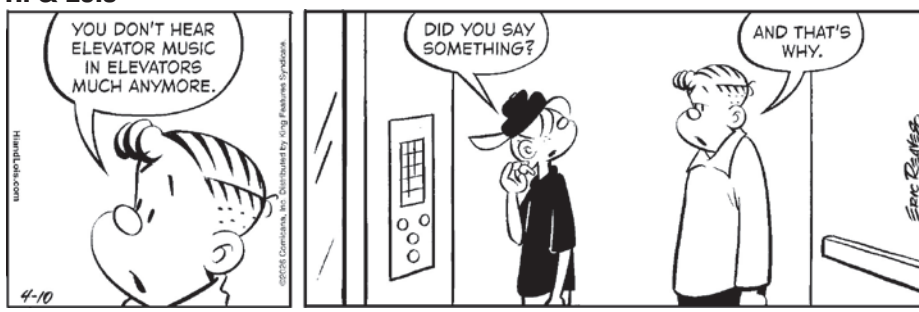
# Blondie



# Phantom



# Hi & Lois



# Dustin



# Beetle Bailey



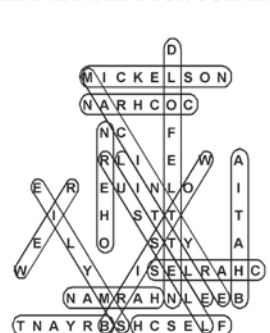
# Pardon My Planet



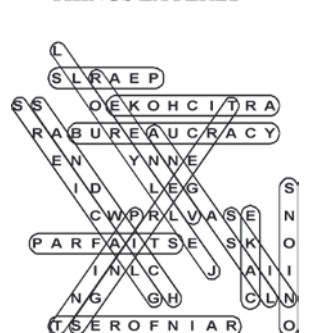
# ANSWER BOX

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

# LEFT-HANDED TOUR GOLFERS



# THINGS LAYERED



# HOROSCOPES

For Saturday, April 11, 2026

It should be an easy, breezy day ahead. The pleasant vibes will be great for events that are designed to bring people together. It's a great time to enjoy the company of the people we love. Additionally, for those of us who are feeling a little more adventurous, the day is perfect for meeting new people and making different connections and acquaintances. In terms of fun and entertainment, the current cosmic weather favors anything offbeat, quirky, innovative or futuristic.

## ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

You might get a lot of satisfaction from being a part of a team project or activity, whether it's for fun, business, or a good cause.

## TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

It might be a challenge to meet your responsibilities for the day because of low energy. Maybe you need to back out of a commitment.

## GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

Feed your curiosity with an interactive class or workshop, a trip to a museum or an art gallery, or a change of scenery.

## CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

Don't be afraid to challenge yourself. You might discover just how powerful you really are.

## LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

Today was made for enjoying deep conversations with someone you find interesting or endearing. It could make for a good bonding experience.

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

Holding yourself to your boundaries is a form of self-nurturing.

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

If you're single and dating, a budding romantic connection looks promising. If you're partnered, aim to spend some quality time together.

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

If you use the day to get chores done around the house, you'll be able to get a lot accomplished.

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

Since the focus is on fun today, you might discover a new hobby that you can stick with.

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

Have an important purchase to make? You could score a great deal or find!

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

If you have work to do or business to handle that requires serious focus, today will be a favorable time to start.

## PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

Take some time out for yourself today. Replenish your reserves.

## FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

You're a visionary thinker. You're naturally creative, and you might choose to express your creativity through music, design, fashion, or other forms of art. Although you can sometimes be hotheaded when you're feeling challenged, you never truly lose your cool. Since you're also a fun-loving person, you rarely stay upset about anything for too long. This year, you're reminded that there's no such thing as a self-made success story. Everyone needs a community, including you!

Birthdate of: Bill Irwin, actor/writer; Joss Stone, singer-songwriter; Lisa Stansfield, singer-songwriter.

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### WORD SLEUTH • WIND INSTRUMENTS

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

Friday's unlisted clue: PLYWOOD

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
 Saturday's unlisted clue hint: HORN PLAYED AT REVEILLE

Bagpipes	Didgeridoo	Oboe	Trombone
Bassoon	Flugelhorn	Piccolo	Trumpet
Clarinet	Flute	Recorder	Tuba
Cornet	Harmonica	Saxophone	

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### WORD SLEUTH • BELLS THAT DON'T RING

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

Saturday's unlisted clue: BUGLE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
 Monday's unlisted clue hint: A NOT SO SMART BELL

Barbell	Bellucose	Belly	Hubbell
Bellamy	Bellini	Bluebell	Kettlebell
Bellboy	Bellow	Campbell	Tinker Bell
Bellhop	Bellwether	Coral bells	

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### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- 43 Flue
- 1 Choir member
- 5 Pitt of "Troy"
- 9 Camera support
- 10 Said "moo"
- 12 Pond life
- 13 Humiliate
- 14 Paging gizmos
- 16 Boxer Norton
- 17 Go astray
- 18 Eyes, in slang
- 20 Red-ink amounts
- 22 Pot start
- 23 Door sign
- 25 Vaulted area
- 28 Backpacker's snack
- 32 Ones to hang onto
- 34 Early auto
- 35 Bar rocks
- 36 "My word!" asset
- 40 Belly button type
- 41 Shenanigan
- 42 Frozen chunks

**DOWN**

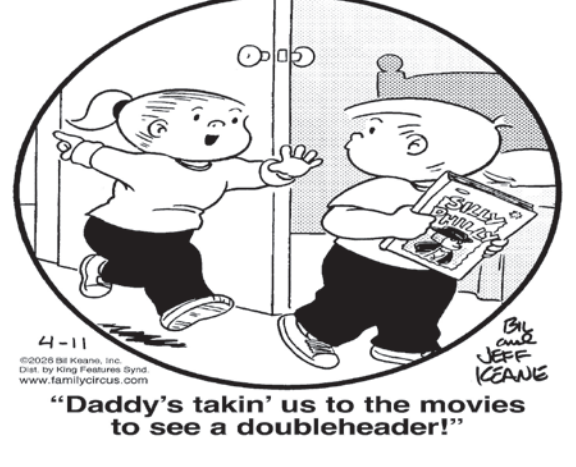
- 1 Lively dance
- 2 Boring tools
- 3 Small fastener
- 4 Increase, as an incline
- 5 World-weary
- 6 Hold up
- 7 Rouse
- 8 Maroon dog
- 9 Cigaret singer Mercer
- 11 Slow-witted
- 15 Make good as new
- 19 Audition goal
- 21 Ooze
- 24 Lighten up
- 25 Japanese out
- 26 Praline nuts
- 27 Handles
- 29 Native of northwest France
- 30 Eagles' homes
- 31 Valentine's gift
- 33 Toss out
- 37 Hungarian dog
- 39 Uncle, in Acapulco

# SUDOKU

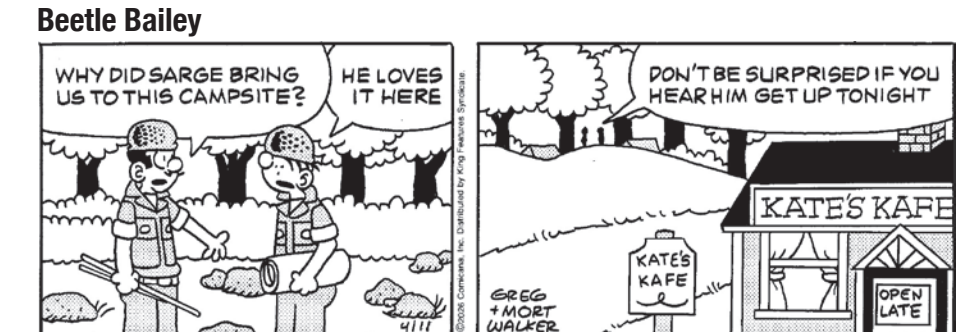
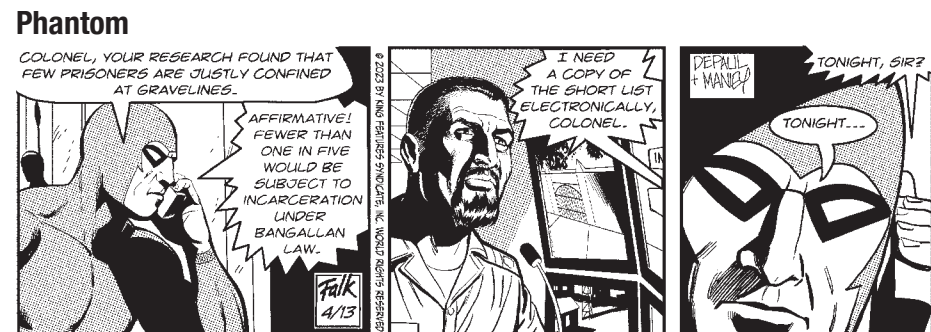
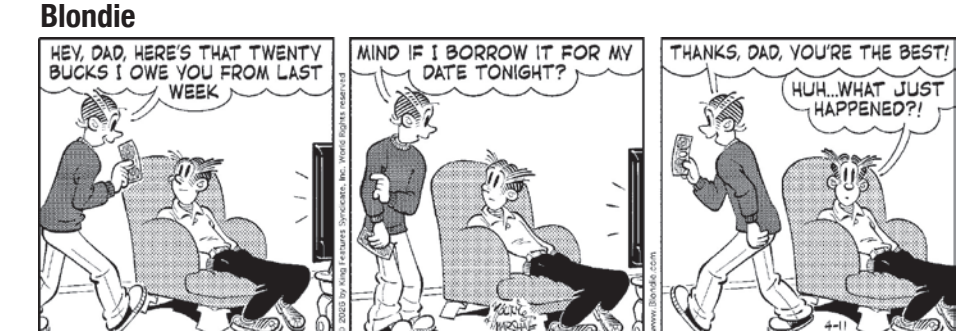
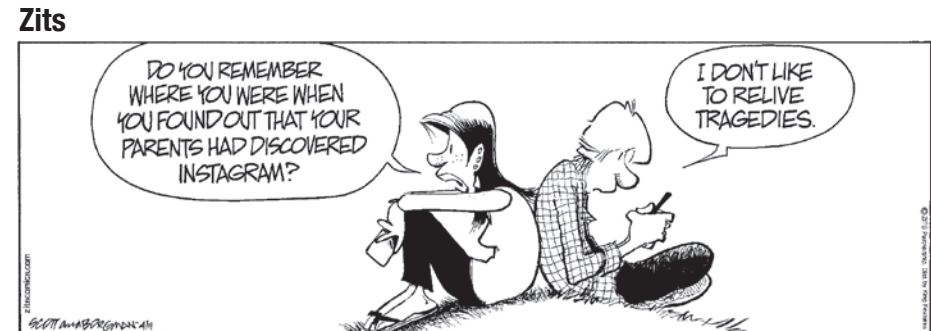
5								6
			3					
3	1		8		4			
							6	
			4			5		2
	9		2	7				
	8	9		2	1			
							2	9
	6			3	8			4

Level: Advanced

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



4-11



### ANSWER BOX

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

#### WIND INSTRUMENTS

ARNROHLEGULF  
 EELJSEHFA  
 TNNECSDRR  
 IOOELORM  
 WUTBHRAOO  
 LFJOMPIRNC  
 CLAYXOODI  
 TUBAWVRXC  
 RTEPMURTA  
 EOLOCCIPST

#### BELLS THAT DON'T RING

BARBELLWETHER  
 YMACLEBPMA  
 ESOCILLEBELTTEK  
 NEEBRLBYXV  
 IBBLELIGE  
 WOLLEBBZEA  
 UURNOG  
 H  
 YOBLLEBCT

### HOROSCOPES

For Sunday, April 12, 2026

If there's a need to connect with others today, whether it's to work on a shared project, enjoy time together, or seek and offer help, he vibes will be much friendlier and more sociable during the afternoon than in the morning. However, for anyone who's interested in having the day all to themselves, the current cosmic weather is perfect for a solo adventure or some much-needed "me time."

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)**  
 Fun with your friends may be just what you need. Consider participating in free or affordable activities so that you can stay within your budget.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)**  
 Watch that you're not being overly accommodating to others, especially if you know that you'd rather be doing something else with your time.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)**  
 You may not be interested in socializing during the first half of the day, but you might change your mind later. Leave room for last-minute plans.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)**  
 There might be important business for you to take care of today. Your social life may have to wait.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)**  
 You enjoy doing things your way, but try being open to another perspective. It might turn out to be very helpful!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)**  
 Avoid starting new projects until you've completed at least one that you've already begun.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)**  
 Today can be an opportunity to deepen the connection with someone you love.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)**  
 You probably don't like asking for help, but doing so can make your life easier.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)**  
 Think about ways that you can have fun while still doing something beneficial for your mind and body. Maybe a bike ride, dancing or art therapy could be a good fit.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)**  
 Having hobbies can provide healthy distractions from the stress of everyday life, but if you're using them to avoid dealing with difficult feelings, then they're just distractions.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)**  
 You might be inspired to make some updates to your living space. This could be a good time to research some inexpensive ideas and options.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)**  
 Give yourself permission to do as little as possible today.

**FOR TODAY'S BIRTHDAY**  
 You can easily make friends because of your outgoing personality and self-confidence. You're a wonderful conversationalist. You're imaginative and intelligent. You shine through with your creativity and cleverness. You're also free-spirited and independent. You move at your own pace, which often puts you miles ahead of everyone else. This year, however, you have a good chance of meeting people who are on your wavelength and match your speed.

Birthdate of: Claire Danes, actress/dancer; Ed O'Neill, actor; David Letterman, talk show host.

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**Alum Springs Convenience Center**  
Source ID: 21-021-00081  
Agency Interest #: 43827

Alum Springs Convenience Center has applied to the Kentucky Division for Air Quality for an initial permit to construct/operate a solid waste combustor and incinerator facility to be located at 775 Yates Road, Junction City, Kentucky 40440. The plant is classified as a Conditional Major source due to potential emissions of non-hazardous regulated air pollutants greater than a major source threshold. This permit contains federally enforceable limitations to restrict this source's potential emissions to less than a major source threshold.

Official copies of the Division's draft permit and relevant supporting information are available for inspection by the public at: <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Air/Pages/Public-Notices.aspx> and during normal business hours at these locations:

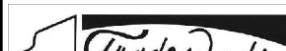
Division for Air Quality, 300 Sower Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone (502) 564-3999 and;

Division for Air Quality London Regional Office, 875 S. Main Street, London, KY 40741  
Phone (606) 330-2080.

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. ET at the Boyle County Public Library in the Heart of Danville Community Room. Doors will be open at 5:45 p.m. ET. The Boyle County Public Library is located at 307 W. Broadway, Danville, KY 40422. This hearing is open to the public and all interested persons will be given the opportunity to present testimony. To ensure that all comments are accurately recorded, the Division for Air Quality requests that oral comments presented at the hearing also be provided in written form, if possible. To be considered part of the hearing record, comments must be received by the close of business on Friday, April 24, 2026. All relevant comments will be considered in issuing the final permit. Further information can be obtained by calling Michelle McCloskey at (502) 782-6713.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. Materials will be provided in alternate format upon request.

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## Notices

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Main Branch Pizzeria, LLC, with a mailing address of 305 W Main Street, Danville, Kentucky 40422, hereby declares its intention to apply for an NQ2 Retail Drink license and a Special Sunday Retail Drink license on or before April 10, 2026. The business to be licensed will be located at 305 W Main Street, Danville, Kentucky 40422. The Main Branch Pizzeria, LLC is a Kentucky limited liability company, the sole member of which is Steven Knight, 305 W Main Street, Danville, Kentucky 40422. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the approval of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within (30) days of the date of legal publication.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### CITY OF DANVILLE DANVILLE, KENTUCKY MOCK'S CREEK PUMP STATION REHABILITATION ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the **Mock's Creek Pump Station Rehabilitation** will be received by the **City of Danville**, at the office of the **Municipal Utilities Director, 445 West Main Street, Danville, KY 40422, until 2:00 p.m. local time on May 7, 2026**, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project consists of rehabilitation of the wetwell, valve vault, piping and other wastewater appurtenances at the Mock's Creek Pump Station. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum or unit price basis for various bid items, as indicated in the Bid Form. Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the instructions to Bidders.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: **Lynn Imaging, 328 Old Vine Street, Lexington, KY, 40507, Phone: 859-255-1021, Website: www.lynnimaging.com**. Prospective Bidders may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Bidding Documents are available by electronic download (as portable document format (PDF) files) for a non-refundable charge of \$125.00. Alternatively, printed Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office either via in-person pick-up via mail, upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment for the Bidding Documents. The non-refundable cost of printed Bidding Documents is \$140.00 per set, payable to "Lynn Imaging", plus a non-refundable shipping charge. Upon Issuing Office's receipt of the shipping charge will depend on the shipping method chosen. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the prospective Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

The project will be funded by a Kentucky Infrastructure Authority Cleaner Water Program Grant and must comply with all Federal, State and Local requirements of that funding program. These include Records Retention, Termination Clause, Clean Air Act, Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Debarment and Suspension clause, and Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment.

All Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 as amended, which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. All Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act, the Contract Work Hours Standard Act and 40 CFR 33.1016.

All Bidders must comply with OSHA (P.L. 91-596) and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (P.L. 91-54). The successful Bidder and all Subcontractors will be required to conform to the labor standards set forth in the Contract Documents.

If Owner awards the contract for the work, such award shall be to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsive Bid.

Owner: **City of Danville**  
By: **Marshall Carrier, P.E.**  
**Municipal Utilities Director**  
Date: **April 11, 2026**

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# Stanford Walmart evacuated after threat

**By Casey Roberts**  
Advocate Messenger

STANFORD — A reported bomb threat prompted the evacuation of a Walmart in Stanford on Thursday evening, drawing a coordinated response from multiple law enforcement and emergency agencies.

According to the Stanford Police Department, officers responded after receiving information about a possible explosive device inside the store. The building was cleared as a precaution while authorities began securing



CASEY ROBERTS

Emergency responders gather outside Stanford Walmart following a reported bomb threat that prompted an evacuation and multi-agency response.

and assessing the scene. Assisting agencies included the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office,

Kentucky State Police, Lincoln County EMS, the Stanford Fire Department and the University of

Kentucky Police Department explosive detection K-9 unit. Emergency personnel

implemented an incident command structure and conducted a comprehensive search of the property, including a sweep by a K-9 unit trained in explosive detection.

Authorities later determined there was no credible threat. The store was reopened after officials confirmed the building was safe for normal operations.

Stanford Police said the report was unsubstantiated and that no injuries were reported.

Officials also acknowledged that a

separate bomb threat was reported the same evening at a Walmart in London, Kentucky. At this time, no information has been released indicating the two incidents are related.

In a statement, the department said responding agencies worked in coordination to secure the location and resolve the situation safely. Authorities also expressed appreciation for the cooperation of those affected during the incident.

The investigation remains ongoing.

# Ky. bill would speed up death penalty execution process

**By Tom Latek**  
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT — Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman praised the Kentucky House of Representatives and Kentucky State Senate in passing bold legislation to help deliver justice in Kentucky.

The General Assembly passed Senate Bill 251 sponsored by State Senator Steve West, R-Paris, which would remove bureaucratic red tape from the process to impose the death penalty in Kentucky.

West's legislation allows the Kentucky Department of Corrections (KDOC) to set execution procedures through internal policies and memorandums,

making the department exempt from formal administrative regulations. This allows a more streamlined process and avoids lengthy, drawn-out hurdles. The bill passed 68-23 in the House and 27-9 in the Senate. It's now on Governor Beshear's desk waiting action.

There are 24 inmates who are currently sitting on Kentucky's death row, and many have tried for decades to avoid their sentence, which was delivered by a jury.

"Families of victims have waited far too long for their loved one's killer to get the justice lawfully sentenced to them from Kentucky juries," Coleman said. "Through zealous collaboration

between our Office and the General Assembly we'll make sure this justice isn't denied. Instead of continuing to hide behind legal fictions, I call on the Governor to sign this bill into law, then sign the death warrant for the killer of Powell County Sheriff Steve Bennett and Deputy Arthur Briscoe."

West notes that, "Senate Bill 251 is less about the death penalty itself and more about the rule of law. For years, Kentucky has been an outlier because court decisions forced execution protocols into the administrative regulation process, creating a revolving door of litigation and delay. This bill corrects that problem by allowing the Department of Corrections to



KENTUCKY TODAY FILE PHOTO

Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman

establish those protocols through internal policy, as most other states already do."

SB 251 also requires

KDOC to publish any internal policies online.

Coleman's office recently argued for the dismissal of a 2006 case is

at the center of a 15-year ban on executions in the state. A dismissal would clear the way for about a dozen executions.

# Kentucky's community colleges spotlight student success

**By Tom Latek**  
Kentucky Today

VERSAILLES — April is Community College Month and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) will celebrate its 110,000 students from all of Kentucky's 120 counties and its 16 colleges all month long.

"College is more than a place for education — our colleges are places for transformation," said KCTCS President Ryan Quarles.

"Each day, students who may never have considered college, or who may have thought obtaining a higher education credential wasn't a possibility, find a future at KCTCS. We're committed to strengthening and aligning our academic and workforce training programs, deepening our partnerships, and finding new ways to support every student's success."

The observance kicked off with the annual KCTCS Going Pro Signing Event, and will continue with Dual Credit week on April 13-17 and KCTCS Giving Day on April 22.

"I'm proud of our shared commitment to learning,



opportunity, community, and the future of Kentucky's workforce," Quarles stated. "Each time I visit one of our Kentucky campuses and talk to our students, I am reminded of why we do what we do."

Powering Kentucky's future as the No. 1 community college in the nation to award credentials per capita, approximately three-fourths of KCTCS graduates enter the workforce debt-free.

Made possible by various initiatives, including the system's ability to provide the lowest tuition rate in Kentucky, nearly half the cost of a four-year university, Quarles said KCTCS staff accomplish this by going above and beyond to meet students where they are, so they don't have to worry about debt upon

graduation. "Students face obstacles, but with the help of KCTCS support services, they're focused on their potential while pursuing their dreams and determined to better their lives," Quarles noted.

For some KCTCS students, learning begins in high school with dual credit courses, which allows students to pursue early college programs tuition-free or at reduced cost.

Others take advantage of KCTCS's earn-and-learn model, with programs like KY FAME, which allow students to work while attending school and earn a competitive wage to help pay off their debt.

For more information on KCTCS, go to [kctcs.edu/index.aspx](http://kctcs.edu/index.aspx).



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# Sometimes you just have to stay quiet

There comes a point in every grown person's life when they realize that not every thought deserves a response. Not every situation deserves your wisdom, and not every comment deserves more than a slow blink, a deep breath, and a quiet little head shake. That's why I am a firm believer that sometimes you just have to stay quiet and let it pass on by. Like when your spouse says, "I don't trust GPS while being lost. I don't mean a little turned around lost, I mean we may be in another state, lost, and they are gripping the steering wheel like they are leading the Lewis

and Clark expedition, refusing help from satellites circling the earth. You just have to shake your head and be quiet.



**JACK GODBEY**

We all experience situations every day that make us just shake our heads and wonder what Cracker Jack's box they got their brain from. For example, I was in the store the other day, and once I got to the cash register, there were signs posted everywhere begging me to

purchase a reusable cloth bag because plastic was killing the planet. So, let me get this straight. I bought a pack of lunch meat that was wrapped in plastic, my loaf of bread was in plastic, the gallon of milk was in a plastic jug and even the bottles of mustard and ketchup were sold in plastic containers. And yet, somehow, the plastic bag I carry it all home in is the only thing destroying the planet. I just had to shake my head and stay quiet. In addition, if I didn't use plastic bags at the store, what would I use for trash bags the rest of the week?

Have you ever see a post on social media so

wild that you can't type your response fast enough? You are going to type something really educational and really give them what for, and then you stop and realize that arguing on the internet is like trying to baptize a cat. Nobody leaves happy, and somebody is going to get scratched.

I went to the doctor for a checkup last week. I had an appointment for 10:00, but the only one that cared about that was me, evidently, as they didn't see me until well after noon. Finally, I saw the doctor, and he recommended that I do a colon cleanse and said that I needed to get some bananas in my

colon. I went home and started right away. I went back today, complaining that the bananas did nothing for me. It would have saved me a lot of pain and a half jar of Vaseline if he had been a little clearer and told me that I was supposed to eat the bananas. He just had to shake his head and stay quiet. This is the same doctor who told me that if I had a vasectomy, I wouldn't have any children. He lied right to my face. I went home, and every kid I had was still there.

It's frustrating sometimes when filling out a form with all the stupid questions they ask such as

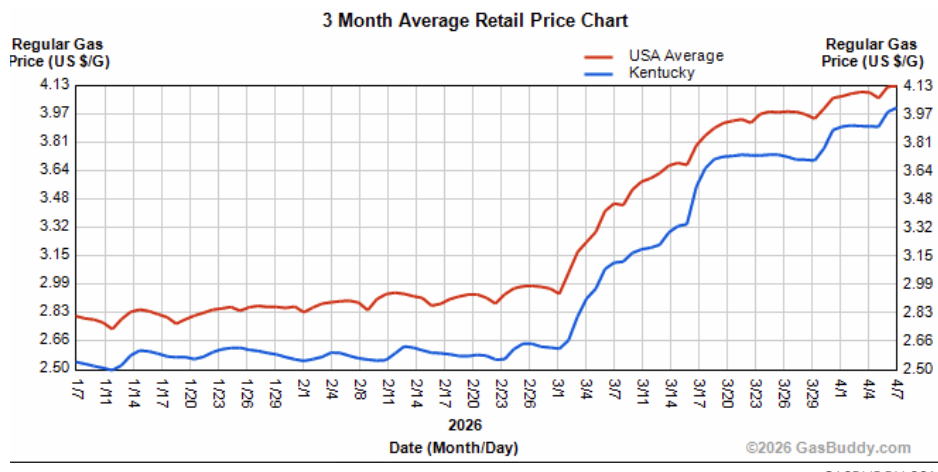
who to call in case of an emergency. Oh, I don't know maybe an ambulance? However, with age, we learn that not everything needs fixing and not everything needs our input. Sometimes, peace is found in just letting foolishness pass by like a loud truck on a country road. Sometimes the best thing to do about a situation is absolutely nothing. There's real power in letting things roll on by without you chasing them. It's like emotional dodgeball. You are not ducking because you are scared. No, you are ducking because you've got better things to do than get hit with nonsense.

# Gasoline prices continue to rise as war in Iran persists

**By Tom Latek**  
*Kentucky Today*

FRANKFORT — The nation's average price of gasoline has risen 11.8 cents over the last week and is now \$4.13 per gallon, according to GasBuddy® data compiled from more than 12 million individual price reports covering 150,000 gas stations across the country.

As of Tuesday morning, the national average is up 65.1 cents from a month ago and is 85.0 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. In Kentucky, the average price is around \$4.00 per gallon. The national average price of diesel rose 20.7 cents in the



In Kentucky, the average price of gas is around \$4.00 per gallon.

last week and stands at \$5.576 per gallon. In Kentucky, the average price for diesel is \$5.25.

"Gasoline prices are poised for another jolt this

week, with many inland states, including the Plains, Great Lakes, and parts of the Rockies, likely to see sharp increases as last week's surge in wholesale

costs has yet to be fully passed through to consumers," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"In addition," he con-

tinued, "some price-cycling markets could also see another round of increases. As a result, the national average could rise by double digits, potentially reaching the \$4.20 to \$4.35 per gallon range in the days ahead. Diesel prices continue to climb as well and now sit just 25 cents away from setting a new all-time record.

De Haan also noted, "Recent escalations between the U.S. and Iran have further intensified concerns about prolonged disruptions to global oil flows, keeping markets on edge. At this point, the trajectory of fuel prices remains highly uncertain and is largely contingent

on the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Until that occurs, the risk of further increases remains firmly in place."

As painful as these prices are today, in the past they have been even higher in Kentucky. With GasBuddy records dating back to 2008, the highest statewide average was on June 16, 2022, when it reached \$5.03 per gallon for regular gas. The lowest average price in Kentucky was on Dec. 29, 2008, when during the height of the "Great Recession" it dropped to \$1.59 per gallon.

You can see gas prices in your local area by going to [Kentuckygasprices.com](http://Kentuckygasprices.com).

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# Boyle County Public Library activities: April 13-18

News release

DANVILLE — This week adults are invited to “just try it” at the library. This monthly program series offers patrons a chance to try out a new activity without the cost or commitment that could hold them back. For this month’s session, the library is partnering with local yoga instructor, Francine Southerland, for an introductory yoga class on Thursday, April 16 at 6 p.m. Take this opportunity to see if yoga is a good fit for you. Yoga mats will be available or you can bring your own. Here’s a look at what else is happening at the library in the coming weeks:

**YOUTH EVENTS:  
YA CREATIVE CLUB**  
Tuesday, April 14, 3:30-5 p.m.

Create fun crafts and learn new artistic skills while you relax, eat snacks, and hang out with other artists. Each session will feature different materials from the library’s wide collection of art and craft supplies. Paint with watercolors or acrylics, sculpt with clay, create jewelry, fold origami, develop your own designs out of Perler beads, and much more! Get inspired and let your imagination guide you to create something uniquely yours. New and returning artists are always welcome. This event will be held in the Tech Area Lounge. (Ages 11-17)

**GAMING GUILD JR.**  
Thursday, April 16, 3:30-5 p.m.

At this monthly event, the library offers multiplayer games for the Nintendo Switch, a large collection of board games, puzzles, and more. Kids attending the program need to have an adult with them in the library for supervision. This event will be held in the Youth Department. (Ages 6-10)

**YA GAMING GUILD**  
Thursday, April 16, 3:30-5 p.m.

Relax, play games, eat snacks, and hang out with other gamers! Pick what you want to play from the library’s collection of board games, card games, puzzles, and video games for the Nintendo Switch. New and returning gamers are always welcome. This event will be held in the Community Room. (Ages 11-17)

**KIDS & YA HOMESCHOOL CLUB**  
Friday, April 17, 1:30-3 p.m.

Homeschool Club meets once a month to provide homeschooled kids, tweens, and teens with an opportunity to learn, create, explore, discover, and socialize. For our April session, we will focus on increasing our financial literacy as well as our knowledge of art history! Work together in small groups as we play a live-action version of the classic art auction board game Masterpiece. As teams of art dealers, you will buy and sell famous paintings, all while keeping your limited budget in mind. This event will be held in the Community Room. (Ages 6-17)

**FEATURED PROGRAMS:  
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY  
ANNUAL MEETING WITH  
KENTUCKY CHAUTAUQUA**  
Tuesday, April 14, 4 p.m.

The Friends of the Library (FOTL), together

with Kentucky Chautauqua, will present Aunt Molly Jackson: Pistol Packin’ Woman at the Boyle County Public Library on Tuesday, April 14 at 4 p.m. In addition to the performance, the Friends will conduct their annual meeting and hear from library staff members about upcoming summer events.

Kentucky Chautauqua is an exclusive presentation of Kentucky Humanities. Through programs that celebrate the history, literature, and culture of the Commonwealth, Kentucky Humanities brings together communities, preserves stories, and inspires lifelong learning across Kentucky. For information about Kentucky Humanities’ programs and services visit [www.kyhumanities.org/](http://www.kyhumanities.org/). This event will be held in the Community Room at

the library. All are invited to attend. (All Ages)

**CONNECT WITH KYNECT**  
Wednesday, April 15, 2-4 p.m.

Take a chance to connect with your local kynector at the library. Julia Turpin from Bluegrass Community Action Partnership, your local kynector, will be available to help you: apply for Medicaid or KI-HIPP; apply for APTC or QHP; report changes in your information; and recertify your benefits. This event will be held in the Computer Lab. (Adults)

**QUILTING IN KENTUCKY:  
QUILT DESIGN**

Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Story Center at Grayson’s Tavern)

Join us for Earth Day festivities at Constitution Square and help us assemble our Community Quilt. Designing a quilt top involves quite a few materials, colors, and pattern choices. Explore quilt design principles, see examples of finished quilts, and try your hand at quilt design. Check out our exhibit, Quilting in Kentucky, during your visit. (All Ages)

**ASD FRIENDS & ALLIES:  
NERF NIGHT**

Saturday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.

BCPL hosts a monthly social group for adults with autism spectrum disorder. The goal of this group is to have fun, grow friendships, and develop new social connections in a safe and comfortable environment. In April we will be having an after-hours NERF and game

night. We will bust out the NERF blasters and darts for some NERF battles. We will also have out our cornhole boards and other games for participants to enjoy. (Adults)

**RECURRING EVENTS:  
BABY STORYTIME**  
Mondays, 10 a.m.

**STORYTIME**  
Tuesdays and Fridays, 11 a.m.

**BOYLE COUNTY WRITERS**  
Tuesday, April 14, 5:30 p.m.

**STORIES OF DOWNTOWN  
WALKING TOUR**  
Wednesdays, 11 a.m. (Story Center at Grayson’s Tavern)

**THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB**  
Thursday, April 16, 10 a.m.

**QUILTING IN KENTUCKY:  
STITCH & STORIES**  
Fridays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Story Center at Grayson’s Tavern)

Information about library resources and all upcoming events can be found online at [BoylePubLib.org](http://BoylePubLib.org). The main library is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The Story Center at Grayson’s Tavern is open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Boyle County Public Library serves the city of Danville and all of Boyle County and is actively committed to enriching the lives of its patrons. The library is located at 307 W. Broadway in Danville.

## McConnell says he tried to help KY punch above its weight

By Jamie Lucke  
Kentucky Lantern

LEXINGTON — Republican U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell defended NATO and said he supported “taking the fight to Iran” while fielding questions Wednesday at the University of Kentucky.

McConnell did not get a chance to respond to a question about President Donald Trump’s threat to wipe out Iran’s civilization after an aide abruptly ended the senator’s media availability.

McConnell, who is retiring after 42 years in the U.S. Senate, was accepting thanks from UK President Eli Capilouto and Erik Frankl, Blue Grass Airport president and CEO.

McConnell this year helped secure \$65 million in federal funding for a new medical research building at the university and \$5.4 million to support expanding the airport terminal, including moving the control tower and adding more gates that can accommodate larger aircraft.

Altogether McConnell claimed credit for \$2.6 billion coming Kentucky’s way in appropriations approved by Congress in 2026 — and \$65 billion over his four-plus decades in Washington.

Speaking to a small audience at the E.S. Good



JAMIE LUCKE

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell speaks at the University of Kentucky on April 8, 2026.

Barn, McConnell, 84 and noticeably frail, said that he has been taking stock “after spending literally half my life in the Senate. ... ‘How’d you do? Did you make a difference?’”

McConnell is Kentucky’s longest-serving senator and also the Senate’s longest-serving party leader (18 years).

He said the Senate’s makeup — two senators from each state regardless of population — enables small states like Kentucky to “punch above their weight” and that he used his clout to make sure Kentucky “not only had our fair share, but we had actually more than our fair share. Nothing wrong with getting more rather than getting less.”

“What I tried not to do

is forget about the people that elected me to the Senate seven times, and what I could do to maximize my seniority and leadership role in improving things at home. So at whatever point things ended, and they always do, I’d be able to look back and say, ‘I think I actually made a difference.’”

War in Iran focus of questions for McConnell After presentations and questions about the UK and airport projects, McConnell sat alone to take questions about what he called “my day job.”

A television reporter cited \$4 gas and asked, “What do you have to say to Kentuckians that are facing some pain at the pump right now?”

McConnell responded, “You talking the events of the last couple days?”

“Gas prices, sir,” the reporter said.

“Well, let me just say with regard to the current conflict, I support taking the fight to Iran. As far as the daily back and forth and how that goes forward, I’m avoiding ... that. But I do believe diminishing Iran’s military capability is very important and worth doing.”

He said his office would be putting out another statement, following one last week, defending NATO and its member nations.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to withdraw the United States from the alliance and complained that its European mem-

bers are not supporting his war on Iran.

A Lantern reporter asked McConnell what he would recommend to repair relations with U.S. allies damaged by the war and for his thoughts on Trump’s threat on Tuesday that a “whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again” if Iran did not reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

As is common at McConnell appearances, an aide repeated the question about repairing alliances so the senator could better hear it. She did not ask him the second part of the question about Trump’s threat.

He said, “I can only speak for myself. Alliances are extremely important. NATO has

been the most effective treaty of its type in the history of the world. Eighty years old. I’m grateful that the members of NATO are increasing their defense spending. We all needed to do that to meet today’s threats. Today’s threats are China, North Korea, Russia, Iran and Iran’s proxies.

“My own view is that NATO supporting the overall effort to push back against this evil empire has been done well, and I thank them for their continued involvement.”

At that point the aide, McConnell’s State Director Robbin Taylor said, “Okay. All right. That’s it. Thank you.”

The reporter said, “I asked a second question.”

Taylor said, “I think we’re done. Thank you.”

*U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Republican, is retiring after 42 years — half his life — in the Senate. He's Kentucky's longest-serving senator and also the Senate's longest-serving party leader at 18 years.*

**KENTUCKY FOOTBALL**

## Tight ends could take larger role in offense

**By Larry Vaught**  
Contributing Writer

LEXINGTON — How many years have Kentucky fans been hoping the tight end might become a productive part of the offense?

Jacob Tamme remains Kentucky's all-time leading pass-catching tight end and ranks second among Southeastern Conference tight ends with 133 receptions for 1,417 yards and 11 touchdowns. A two-time all-SEC selection, his playing career ended in 2007.

Before Tamme, James Whalen set a then-school record with 90 catches for 1,019 yards and 10 touchdowns in 1999, leading the nation in all three categories among tight ends. A first-team All-American, Whalen set NCAA records for most receptions in a season and most receptions per game (8.2) by a tight end.

Derek Smith followed with 50 receptions for 716 yards and five touchdowns in 2000 and finished his career with 89 catches for 1,000 yards. He earned all-SEC honors in his final season.

Since Tamme's departure, Kentucky has not consistently featured a primary tight end target in its offense. Former coach Mark Stoops often spoke about increasing tight end involvement, but production at the position rarely reflected that emphasis.

New coach Will Stein arrives



VICKY GRAFF

Willie Rodriguez makes a catch during Kentucky spring practice in Lexington.

with a different approach, one that has historically featured tight ends as a central part of the offense. At Oregon last season, his tight end Kenyon Sadiq recorded 51 receptions for 560 yards and eight touchdowns and is considered the top-rated tight end prospect for the 2026 NFL Draft.

Stein has indicated that role could carry over to Kentucky, particularly for quarterback Kenny Minchey this season.

"Off the field, they're nice, real nice, but on the field, they're crazy," senior safety Ty Bryant said of Kentucky's tight ends.

Junior Willie Rodriguez could emerge as one of the breakout players in the SEC under Stein.

Rodriguez appeared in 12 games as a true freshman in 2024, recording five catches for 94 yards. Last season, he started seven of 12 games and finished with 23 receptions for 310 yards and one touchdown. His six receptions against Vanderbilt were the most by a Kentucky tight end since C.J. Conrad had six against Mississippi State in 2015.

"I feel like we have a great connection," Minchey said. "I think he was the first person that texted me when I got on campus."

Rodriguez previously developed a strong relationship with quarterback Cutter Boley before Boley transferred to Arizona

State.

"He's a really, really good athlete in terms of creating space and getting open and catching the ball. Catching the ball is definitely a strong suit. But he's always talking about hitting people," Minchey said. "He definitely doesn't shy away from a little bit of contact."

Stein said Rodriguez has stood out during spring practice.

"Willie Rodriguez is a fantastic player. This guy can play ball. He made some big plays today. He is definitely one of our go-to guys," Stein said after Saturday's practice. "If we're not feeding him the rock daily, shame on us. That guy is an NFL player, no doubt."

"I've been around some really good tight ends, especially recently. That guy can play."

Stein also praised 6-foot-6, 270-pound Henry Boyer, a transfer from Nebraska, and 6 foot-4, 235-pound redshirt freshman Mikel Skinner.

"Henry Boyer, another guy that's gonna play in the NFL. He's a really good player. He's got the size, he's got the weight, he's got the intangibles up front. He's a true Y, but he's been catching the ball really good," Stein said after last week's scrimmage.

"And then Skinner, I mean, he made some big plays today on the perimeter, excited about his growth. He's got to continue to learn and push in the classroom and take it out to the field. But when that dude knows what he's doing, he's a problem. He's a big problem."

"So I really love that group. I think coach Justin Burke's done an excellent job of coaching them, and they should play a big role in our offense moving forward."

If that production materializes, it could resonate beyond the current roster. Boyle County tight end Seneca Driver, who recently committed to Oklahoma, is ranked the nation's No. 1 tight end by Rivals.com and No. 18 overall. The 6-foot-6, 240-pound prospect holds offers from 11 SEC schools and is considered a consensus four-star recruit on the verge of five-star status.



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# Out of the Blue

## Stein, Cats share same vision

By KEITH TAYLOR  
Kentucky Today

Entering his first season, Kentucky football coach Will Stein and his staff are making every day count.

"I think every day is important," he said. "Every year is important. Is it because it's my first time? I'm just used to doing things the right way. I've seen it done the right way for a long time. Over my entire career, all my stops have typically been stops where we've won, and so I know what it looks like at the highest level. So are we where we need to be, not all the way, but I think everybody here has the same vision as me, and they're working night and day to make sure that we're putting the product on the field that is our absolute best."

In addition to the work behind the scenes, Stein added that "winning solves a lot" when it comes to building a successful program.

"When you win, there's enough for everybody," he said. "When you lose, there's not enough for anybody. We're just so focused on the process right now and our daily habits and proud of really our entire organization up to this point."

The Kentucky coach also has been pleased with the progress of transfer quarterback Kenny Minchey Jr. this spring.

"I challenge him every single day," Stein said. "If you want to be a dominant player here, and in the SEC and in the country, you have to practice a certain way. It's not like you can just show up on Saturdays and expect to play at the level that you want and that we want you to. I'm challenging him every single day. He's got the body, he's got the height, weight, speed, I think he's got the mental makeup that I've seen. It's just being consistent in everyday practice. So I've been proud of him. I think he's grown a ton since we've gotten here."

Although the Stein era doesn't officially begin until next fall, the Kentucky coach is already putting his team through pregame mode this spring to get an early jump on in-season preparation.

"When we do our walk-throughs, we're emphasizing certain things that show up in a game, whether that's stacks and bunches, whether that's third and medium, or it could be 12 personnel runs versus nickel on defense," he said. "There's something that's talked about and focused on every time we go out to the practice field."



Travis Ford responds to a question Tuesday during an introductory news conference at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Photo by Little Rock Athletics

# Ford gets fresh start

## Former UK guard hired at ALR

By KEITH TAYLOR  
Kentucky Today

Former Kentucky guard Travis Ford has always counted on his father, Eddie, for support during his coaching career. This time, Ford relied on his own instincts when he accepted his sixth coaching assignment at Arkansas Little Rock.

Ford accepted the job last month and was officially introduced last week.

"Throughout my whole career as a player and as a coach, it's always been about family, a family affair," Ford said.

Ford was joined by his wife, Heather, his mom, Pat, and other family members, but it was the first time his late father, Eddie Ford, wasn't present to see his son embark on another phase in his coaching career. Eddie Ford, who founded the first AAU program in Kentucky and also created the Hoopfest Basketball Tournament in Louisville, passed away at the age of 81 in May.

"He was a great high school coach and taught me the game and he had been with me every step of the way, as far as teaching me the game, but also every step of my coaching career when it came time to either move on to another school or whatever it may be, he was always there," Ford said. "he would

give his opinion and kind of help me through it and and those type things.

"This was the first time, first decision that I made without him, and it was, it was tough, but I talked to him a lot, and I know my dad is looking down, and I know my nephew Ford is looking down, and they're very, very excited about today and very excited about this opportunity."

Following a successful playing career at Kentucky, Ford began his coaching career at Campbellsville University before restoring the program at Eastern Kentucky University. His coaching stops have also included Oklahoma State and Saint Louis. Ford has compiled a 491-366 record in his career.

Ford spent the past season as an analyst for the SEC Network, but it didn't take Ford long to get back into the coaching profession.

During the interview process, it didn't take much to convince Ford that he had found the right place to resume his coaching career.

"I walked out of that meeting very excited, extremely excited," he said. "I walked into it kind of unsure. Walked out of it, saying 'I would like to be there.'"

Ford and his wife, Heather, came away impressed with the community and what the 'Trojans' basketball program

had to offer.

"I wanted a place I could win, plain and simple, a place that had the resources to win, the place that winning meant something to them," he said. "The more I studied this program, the more I dove into it. I said, 'this is a place we can win, and we can win big.' There are so many things in place to have a highly successful championship-type program. They are in place, and we're going to build on that."

Ford also liked the makeup of his future squad.

"These are the type of young men you want a part of your program," he said. "These are type of young men you can go to war with right here. And I look forward to working with those guys, but I'm a big believer in getting them in the best shape of their lives, making them feel good about themselves."

Arkansas Little Rock Athletics Director Frank Cuervo said Ford is a "winner and one of the top coaches in college basketball."

"Throughout his career, he has consistently elevated programs, recruited at a high level, and developed student-athletes who thrive both on and off the court," he said. "His experience, leadership, and vision make him the right person to lead us into this next chapter."

### Quotable

"The only thing that happened pregame of that Louisville game is I learned I have to be more careful with the words I say ... There was nothing, nothing. We walked into the Louisville gym and during warm-ups, my guys were jawing back and forth with fans. They walked to the locker room at they were at level 11 an hour and a half before the game. We were just at a fever pitch for a long time, too long to probably be sustainable. There was no fight, no controversy, nothing interesting. That's the big reveal."

Mark Pope

### By the numbers

# 3

Brandon Garrison, Jaland Lowe and Jasper Johnson have declared for the transfer portal.

# 4

The UK gymnastics team finished 4th in the NCAA Lexington Regional.

# 23

The UK baseball team is 23-8 overall and 6-6 on the season, going into this week's games.



## Football Schedule

April



18

Blue-White Game • 11 a.m.

September



5

Youngstown State



12

Alabama



19

@Texas A&M



26

South Alabama

October



3

@South Carolina



10

LSU



17

@Oklahoma



24

Vanderbilt

November



7

@Tennessee



14

Florida



21

@Missouri



28

Louisville