OBITUARIES

Obituaries are placed online at Amnews.com on a timely basis, as they are received. Review current listings, archives or place an obituary at Amnews.com/category/obituaries

Deadline for print publication:
Tuesday publication deadlines Monday, 10 am EST
Saturday publication deadlines Thursday, 12 pm EST

Natalie Jane Jacobs Monroe, 89



Natalie Jane Jacobs Monroe passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, November 2, 2026, after spending Sunday with her husband, Theodore Frazer Monroe, Sr. (Ted), and other family. She was 89 years old.

They met during the Asian flu epidemic. Natalie, a 19-year-old student nurse, was making her rounds at the Berea College student infirmary when she woke a young man to give him a sleeping pill. Ted was already fast asleep and did not need one. So began a 70-year relationship, with 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

Natalie was born in Wyandotte, Michigan, on July 27, 1937, to Burt O. Jacobs and Kathleen Marie Curry Jacobs. Her mother passed away 21 days after her birth, and for the first seven years of her life she was raised by her father, her grandparents, and two aunts, Elizabeth Eberle and Margaret Jane Brown. She then moved with her father and her stepmother, Loretta Bailey Jacobs, to Crab Orchard, Kentucky. All predeceased her.

She graduated from Crab Orchard High School in 1955 and from the Berea College School of Nursing in 1958. Natalie and Ted were married on December 20, 1959. The family lived in Lexington, Louisville, Cynthiana, and Danville, Kentucky; in Knoxville and Gatlinburg, Tennessee; and in Vero Beach, Florida. Natalie worked as a registered nurse at Harrison Memorial and Good Samaritan Hospitals, among others, and in 1985 she returned to school in Los Angeles to earn a specialization in what is now called Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Ted; her daughter, Emily Bates (Kenny), and her three sons, Theodore F. Monroe, Jr. (Tonya), Joseph W. Monroe (Ashley Dabb), and James Monroe (Monica); her grandchildren, Alexis Sparks (Stephen), Dreama Bishop (James Lynn), Peyton Powell, Emily Monroe (Gabriel Easton), Brittni Hodge (Jacob), Taylor Siegrist (Dylan), Joseph "Joey" Monroe, and Jacob Monroe; and her great-grandchildren, Kennedy Bishop, Abygayle Bishop, Konrad Taylor Wilson, Kayden McIntosh, Eleanor Hodge, Averi Wilson, and Emori Siegrist.

Visitation was from 11:30am-1:30pm on Thursday, November 5th at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church. The Funeral Service followed at 1:30pm. A private burial was held at Bluegrass Memorial Gardens in Lexington, KY.

In addition to flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Lexington Avenue Baptist Church and the Danville-Boyle County Humane Society.

A guestbook is available at www.wlpruitt.com

Colonel Jere S. Medaris

Colonel Jere S. Medaris, US Army (Retired), passed away November 2, 2026 in Florence, Alabama after a long battle with cancer. Colonel Medaris was born in 1949 in Danville, Kentucky to Kenneth and Wanda Medaris. Serving 32 years in the Army in various command and staff positions, he and his family spent 16 years overseas. His awards include the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. He retired from Madrid, Spain in 2003 to Florence, Alabama where he remained until his death. He is survived by his wife of 55 years Elizabeth Anderson Medaris, four children, Sophia, Matthew (Ashli), Jeremy (Shaye) and Joshua, three grandchildren, Lilly, Eli and Theo, niece and nephew Molly and Steele. His brother Ken Medaris Jr. (Louise) still resides in Danville, Kentucky. Private services for Colonel Medaris will be held in Florence, Alabama.

DEATH NOTICES

Katherine Fay Peyton, 58, of Danville, died on Nov. 1, 2026.

Charles Owen Cress, 90, of Eubank, died on Oct. 31, 2026.

Lloyd D. Wilson, 92, of Liberty, died on Nov. 4, 2026.

Frances Joy Birch, 96, of Harrodsburg, died on Nov. 3, 2026.

Carol Wilson, 78, of Junction City, KY, died, November 3, 2026.

Sylvester Young Jr., 74 of Louisville, died, November 3, 2026.

STILL WATERS

Building our faith muscle



Tiffany Johnson

We often talk about building our physical muscles, but what about our faith muscle? Having faith rooted deeply in our hearts and minds is truly a game changer. Throughout scripture, God has given us countless stories that strengthen and grow our faith.

Some of my favorite examples are the miracles recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, where we see Jesus healing, restoring, and transforming lives.

Then there's Noah, who trusted God enough to build an ark before a single drop of rain fell.

Moses stepped forward in faith and witnessed God part the Red Sea.

Daniel remained faithful in the lions' den, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood firm in the fiery furnace, trusting God no matter the outcome.

The heroes listed in Hebrews 11, often called the "Hall of Faith," remind us that ordinary people accomplished extraordinary things because they believed God. Faith is exercised through hearing and studying the Word of God. It cannot be physically seen, yet its impact is undeniable. Jesus said that faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains. Though it begins small, it grows and develops when rooted deeply in our hearts.

It was faith that conquered.

Faith is knowing we can not but God can!

It was faith that stood the test.

It is childlike faith that draws us closer to our precious Father. As the song says, "Give us faith like David," a faith that confidently trusts God in every battle and every season.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of faith. We pray that You would be pleased with our faith and help it grow in ways we cannot even imagine. Strengthen our hearts to trust You more each day, especially when the path ahead is uncertain.

Remind us that Your love is enough to stand against every scheme of the evil one. Protect us as You protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, when a fourth figure, like the Son of God, appeared in the fire beside them. Thank You for never leaving us alone in our trials.

Thank You for being our Savior, our Redeemer, and our Rescuer. Help us walk by faith and not by sight, trusting that You are always working for our good and Your glory.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

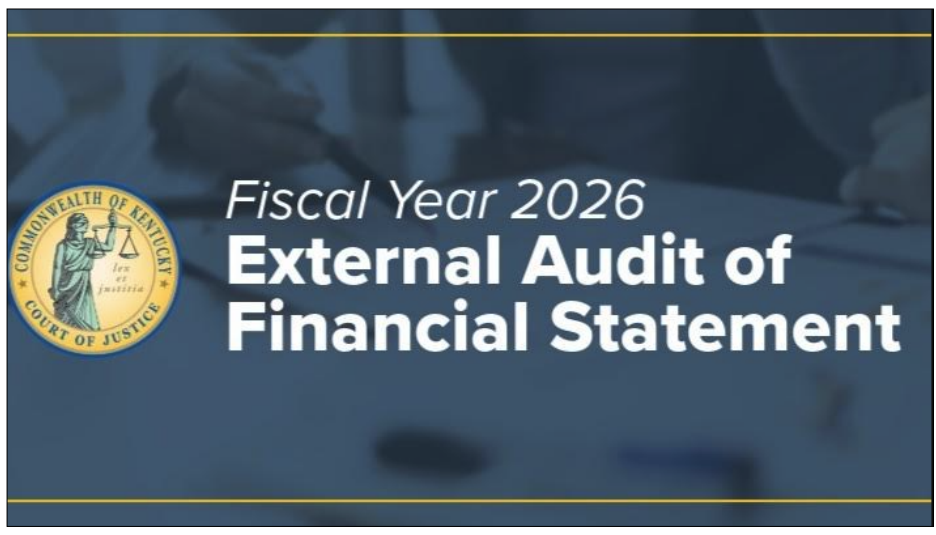
Blessings and Love,

Tiffany

Scripture: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

Kentucky Judicial Branch receives clean audit opinion

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today



AOC

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Judicial Branch announced Wednesday that it has received an unmodified opinion, the highest level of assurance an auditor can provide, on its Fiscal Year 2026 financial statement.

The independent audit was conducted by Dean Dorton, which found that the Judicial Branch's financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2026.

"Maintaining public trust in the Kentucky Court of Justice's management of taxpayer dollars is of prime importance," said Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Hembree Lambert. "This latest clean audit underscores the Judicial Branch's ongoing commitment to responsible fiscal stewardship, accountability and transparency. The independent auditor's report reflects the integrity of our financial operations."

Dean Dorton reported no significant difficulties, disagreements or uncorrected misstatements during the audit and found no deficiencies in internal control or compliance issues.

The financial statement and the independent auditor's report are available on the Kentucky Court of Justice website at: https://www.kycourts.gov/AOC/Audits/Pages/default.aspx. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) publishes the Kentucky Court of Justice financial statement each year. The statement is audited by an external auditor in accordance with Section 4 of Supreme Court Administrative Order 2024-35.

The AOC, which is located in Frankfort, is the operations arm of the state court system. The AOC supports the activities of nearly 3,300 court system employees and 412 elected justices, judges and circuit court clerks. As the fiscal agent for the state court system, the AOC executes the Judicial Branch budget, as adopted by the Kentucky General Assembly.

Kentucky launches free college planning tools for all students

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT - As Kentucky high school students and families head into "GO!vember," the state's annual month-long campaign to help them prepare for college and training after high school, the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) has announced two partnerships designed to make that path clearer and easier to follow.

Futuriti, CPE's free college and career exploration platform, has partnered with Level All to give every Kentucky school district a free tool for guiding students through their Individual Learning Plan (ILP), grade by grade. CPE is also moving to make Common App the statewide college application required by House Bill 307, the My Kentucky Future Act, so students can apply to Kentucky's public colleges and universities through a single, free platform.

"The decision to go to college isn't made in a single month of senior year. It's built over years, as students discover what they love and learn what it takes to get there," said CPE President Aaron Thompson. "GO!vember is our reminder to every family that college is within reach. With Futuriti and Level All guiding students from middle school on, and a single, free application waiting for them in senior year, we're making that path clearer for every Kentucky student."

Every Kentucky student in grades 6–12 is required to have an Individual Learning Plan, a living roadmap that connects their interests and goals to coursework, careers and plans after high school. Many districts have felt pressure to buy costly platforms to manage that work. Level All offers a free alternative, available to every Kentucky district at no cost.

Level All is a FERPA-compliant platform aligned to Kentucky's ILP framework, with a plan for every grade from 6 through 12. Its lessons align to the Kentucky Advising Academy's Postsecondary Advising Scope and Sequence, a grade-by-grade guide to the conversations and activities that prepare students for life after high school. When a lesson calls for Kentucky-specific information, students go straight to Futuriti.org to explore careers, real Kentucky wages, college costs and scholarships, then return to their plan. Counselors and teachers can assign lessons, monitor progress and see where students are in their ILP work.

Throughout GO!vember, CPE, Futuriti and partners, including GEAR UP Kentucky and the Kentucky Advising Academy, will share resources on exploring careers, applying to college, completing the FAFSA, finding scholarships and earning college credit in high school.

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