OBITUARIES

Betty Jean Taylor Elmore, 75

Betty Jean Taylor Elmore, age 75, of Lawrenceburg passed away on April 4, 2026.

She is survived by her husband, Gary L. Elmore; children, Jason Davis, Debbie (Ryan) Hancock, Michelle (Oakley) Vaughn and Dawn (Chip) Ryder; 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; a sister, Debbie (Scottie) Waldridge; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard Taylor and Julie Gibson Taylor; a brother, William Taylor; and two sisters, Carol Akins and Faye Hicks.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on April 9, at Ritchie & Peach Funeral Home in Lawrenceburg with Scott Shepherd officiating. Burial will follow in Lawrenceburg Cemetery. Visitation will be held prior to the service on Thursday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Condolences may be shared at www.ritchieandpeach.com.

Cathy Lynne Ritchey Rivera, 65

Cathy Lynne Ritchey Rivera, age 65, of Lawrenceburg, passed away April 1, 2026.

Cathy is survived by her daughters, Jessica Cooley (Brady), Whitley Lester (Jordan) and Kaitlin Beatty (Cal); grandchildren, Emrie, Nora, Declan, Shea, Maeve, Henry and Dempsey; sisters, Donna Drury (Jackie) and Lora Woods (Brandon); and a nephew, Kian Woods.

Cathy was preceded in death by her parents, Edgar Thomas Ritcheyand Susan Caldwell Ritchey and an infant sister, Sarah Denise Ritchey.

A Celebration of Life was held April 8, at Ritchie & Peach Funeral Home.

Memorial donations are suggested to Anderson County Humane Society, P.O. Box 494, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342.

Arrangements are entrusted to Ritchie & Peach Funeral Home in Lawrenceburg.

Condolences may be shared with the family at www.ritchieandpeach.com.

MY VIEWS: Mow high for lawn health

JENEEN **WICHE**

I don't worry about my lawn so much; I see all the weeds, yellow dandelions and purple violets as food for our sheep. As the grass grows, I think, "Where will I move them next?" And, actually, our dandelion population is rather minimal because the sheep love the yellow blooms so not too many make it to the fluffy seed head stage of life! I do understand, however, that this is not the point that most people are operating on. Most do worry about the appearance of their lawn, but the funny thing is that many of our lawn care habits actually create additional problems that need some sort of intervention. It is a vicious lawn care cycle. Fertilize, mow, spray, fertilize, mow, spray…why not just mow high and enjoy the clover (as the bees do)?

No matter how many times agronomists warn us not to fertilize in the spring, products fly off the shelf in April and May. Fall is the time to fertilize, if you must. The grass will be lush and green in the spring on its own; it will grow twice as fast as any other time of the year, and it will use up any fertilizer you put down on this speedy growth. You just made your mowing chores more urgent; and most of the fertilizer washes away in spring showers.

Over feeding can also cause a higher incidence of summer lawn diseases and the build-up of thatch. Thatch is not caused by leaving grass clipping on the lawn rather it is a condition where grass roots mat on the surface and make it difficult for oxygen, water and nutrients from reaching the more important deeper roots.

Mulching grass clippings back onto the lawn has many benefits, in fact. Decomposing grass provides trace amounts of slowly released nitrogen and encourages healthy microbial and earthworm activity that feeds and aerates the lawn further. And too much nitrogen in the spring is linked to fungal lawn diseases like red thread, dollar spot, brown patch and frog-eye.

Alas, mowing your lawn properly can solve a great many lawn care problems. The #1 rule is to mow high. No one pays attention to this recommendation, either, but it makes a great deal of sense in terms of overall best management practices. I suppose, too, if people have lawn care companies doing the mowing for them, they may feel cheated if their lawn is not cut close. We need to rethink this mentality and encourage our lawn care companies to mow a bit higher, as well.

If you mow high, at least three inches (the shortest I go in "manicured lawn" areas is 3 ¾"), you can greatly reduce the amount of weed seed that can make contact with soil thus eliminating many annual weed problems in the lawn. If weeds do exist the taller grass will outcompete weed seedlings for sunlight, water and nutrients. Research also shows that taller grass has deeper roots; deeper roots mean less drought stress.

Mowing frequency is also linked to lawn health. Agronomists recommend that we remove about 1/3 of the blade at each mowing. If you mow grass common sense tells you when it has gotten too high, grass clogs up the mower or causes it to cut off or hesitate. Allowing the grass to get too high between mowing also stresses the turf when you do actually mow especially if you mow really short. Essentially you have just removed the grass's ability to function if only a stub is left behind. No photosynthesis, no nutrient storage, etc. Do this week after week in the summer and it will cause stress.

It is not that difficult to have a decent lawn if you follow healthy management practices. Also, plant tall type fescue in Kentuckiana, it is the most resilient for our environment. Tall fescue is more forgiving when it comes to poor soil, and it will save itself during a drought by going dormant.

CHILD

FROM **PAGE A1**

nurturing necessary for a child's healthy growth and development."

Neglect—defined as "the failure to provide a child with adequate food, clothing, medical care, education, or supervision when financially able to do so."

She shared that our role as community members is to recognize when families are struggling and to offer support—whether that be helping out with childcare, referring them to local resources, or helping to provide meals.

Local Anderson County resources include: The County Health Department, The LIGHT (Living in God's Hope & Truth) Center, Open Hands Food Pantry, Veteran's Auxiliary, Anderson County School System, New Vista: Anderson Clinic, Second Blessings (First Baptist Church), and the Anderson United Program.

While it is very important that suspected abuse or neglect is reported to the Kentucky Abuse Hotline, Drury emphasized it can also be just as important to support families early—because preventing abuse often begins long before a report is ever made.

As she said, "By moving upstream through the first two forms of prevention…we could prevent an average of 15,000 occurrences of abuse and neglect each year in our state."

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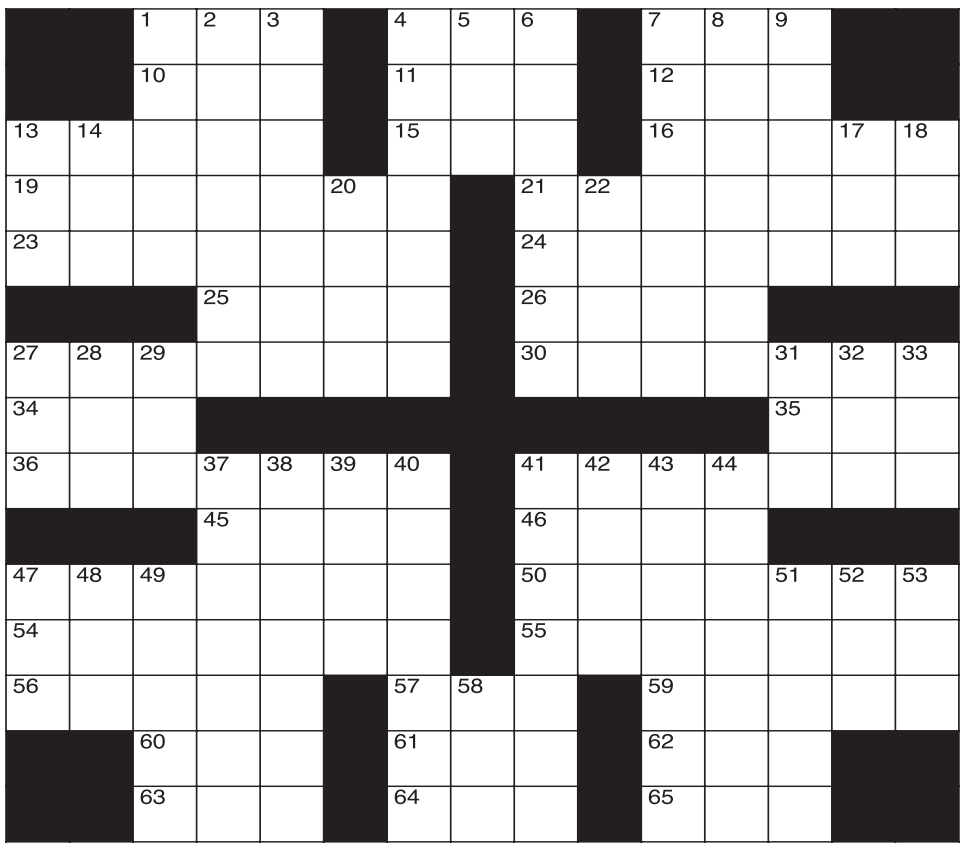
CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Health care pros
4. A person inhabiting Benin
7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
10. Split pulses
11. Frozen water
12. Small constellation
13. Perennial mountain rice
15. Pick up
16. Japanese historical period
19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
21. Unattached
23. Fishing port in SE France
24. Products for dogs
25. One point south of southeast
26. Having the skill or resources to do something
27. Involve oneself deeply
30. Immobile
34. __ pai dong: Hong Kong food stall
35. Move quickly on foot
36. Gathered
41. A way through
45. Another name for Thor
46. Sharp dueling sword
47. The supreme commander of a fleet
50. Seasoned sausages
54. Path
55. Christian hermit
56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
57. Where wrestlers go to work
59. Roman statesman
60. Explosive
61. Licensed for Wall Street
62. Where golfers start
63. Grow old
64. Autonomic nervous system
65. No seats available

CLUES DOWN

1. A legally binding command
2. General feeling of discomfort
3. Dribble
4. Soft touch
5. South American plant
6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
8. Lines created by folding
9. Strong belief
13. Senior officer
14. Adult
17. Joint entrance examination in India
18. Passports and drivers' licenses are two
20. Those who go against an accepted authority
22. One point east of northeast
27. Journalist Tarbell
28. One's mother (British)
29. Nowhere to be found
31. A way to save for old age
32. Fall behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. The work of a sailor
38. Mark with striae
39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
40. Sticky situation
41. Monetary units of Spain
42. Three-banded armadillo
43. Chooses
44. More disreputable
47. Defensive nuclear weapon
48. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
52. OJ trial judge
53. Politician
58. Airborne (abbr.)

KIDS' CORNER

SPORTS FACT:

This is a low-impact paddle sport that mixes rules of tennis, paddle ball and more.

Answer: Pickleball

NEW WORD

BASELINE

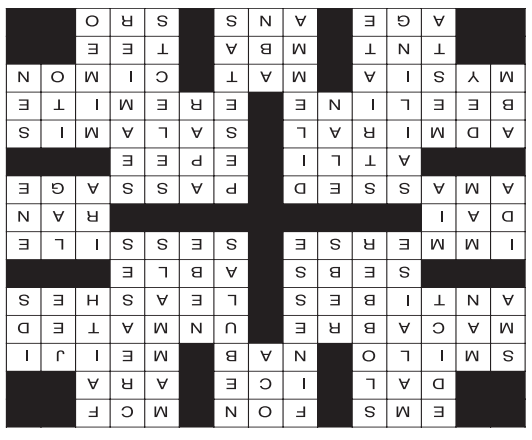
the line marking each end of a court

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

SOLUTIONS

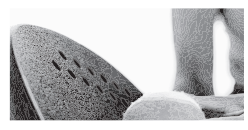


8	6	7	9	3	2	4	1	5
5	3	4	7	1	8	6	9	2
2	9	1	5	6	4	8	3	7
9	7	2	8	4	6	3	5	1
6	5	8	3	9	1	2	7	4
1	4	3	2	5	7	9	6	8
7	8	5	6	2	9	1	4	3
4	2	6	1	7	3	5	8	9
3	1	9	4	8	5	7	2	6

How they say that in...

English: Ball
Spanish: Pelota
Italian: Palla
French: Balle
German: Ball

Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Pickleball and paddle

Did You KNOW?

Although pickleball seems like a recent phenomenon, it actually was created in 1965. The game initially was played using makeshift equipment.