

**-OUT & ABOUT**

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Saturday, April 25, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Fifth District Volunteer Fire Department, located at 6810 Caneyville Road in Morgantown. The event will feature brief three-minute remarks from each candidate, along with food plates including barbecue, hamburgers, or hot dogs. Activities will also include a silent auction, music, and a chance to win a gun. Proceeds will benefit the local fire department. For more information, call 270-925-1064.

**Butler County Community Education  
Winter/Spring Classes**

Butler County Community Education is offering several Winter/Spring programs at the Education Complex. Zumba classes, taught by Mykel M., are held on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:00–6:00 p.m. New participants may attend their first class free, and the cost is \$5 per class thereafter. The Bears Den after-school program meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until 5:30 p.m. Children are transported to the complex by school bus, and parents or caregivers pick them up. The program includes a movie and snack, homework help, and guided recreational activities such as exercise programs, centers, chess, science activities, STEM projects, Zumba and more. The fee is \$25 per child for each nine-week session. The Choose Your Own (CYO-BC) Butler County Reading Group meets on the third Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Education Complex. For additional information, contact Pam Pendley at 270-662-9261.

**SCHOLARS**

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during their junior year.

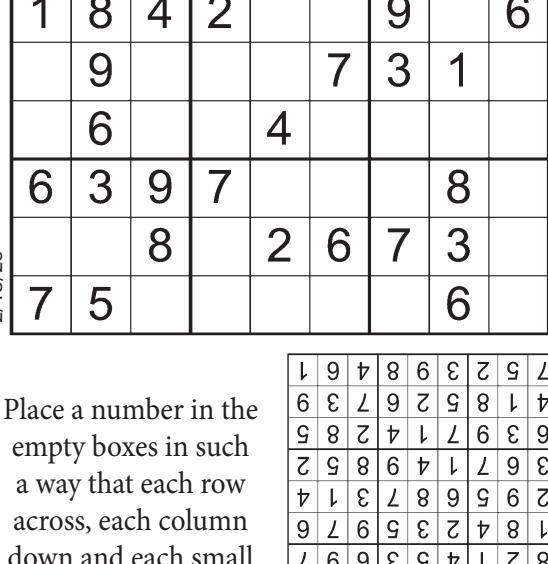
The state provides approximately \$2 million annually to support the program. According to program data, nearly 75 percent of students who completed the summer 2023 session enrolled at a Kentucky college or university by fall 2024.

Completion of the program also opens doors to scholarship opportunities at colleges and universities across the state, helping families reduce the cost of higher education while encouraging Kentucky's top

students to remain in the Commonwealth.

Enrollment for the 2026 session closed in January. Students who are currently juniors and interested in applying for future sessions should contact their school guidance counselor for application details and deadlines.

Local educators encourage qualified students to consider applying, noting the program not only strengthens academic skills but also builds leadership, confidence and lasting connections with peers from across Kentucky.

**Weekly SUDOKU**

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all the numbers from one to nine.

ANSWER

Weekly SUDOKU

**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps

OH, GIVE ME A BREAK.  
THANK YOU FOR BREAKFAST.

**SEN. STEPHEN MEREDITH'S  
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE****WEEK SIX OF THE 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

As we wrap up week six of the 2026 Legislative Session, the pace of work in Frankfort continues to accelerate.

Committees are meeting daily with fuller agendas, legislation is moving to the floor and priorities are advancing with thoughtful debate.

At this point in the session, more than 100 pieces of legislation have officially passed at least one chamber. This is a clear sign that the General Assembly is actively working to address issues important to Kentucky families.

While there is still critical work ahead, this milestone reflects meaningful progress on policies focused on strengthening our economy, addressing affordability,

supporting our communities, protecting taxpayers, bettering education and ensuring government operates efficiently and transparently.

This week, I filed Senate Bill (SB) 175, legislation to establish the Kentucky Health Command and position our state at the forefront of responsible healthcare innovation. As a former rural hospital CEO, I know the strain provider shortages place on families across our region. SB 175 would create

a secure, artificial intelligence-assisted virtual health platform designed to offer nonclinical support such as preventative health education, care navigation, appointment scheduling assistance, and telehealth access, without practicing medicine or replacing licensed providers. The goal is simple: use modern technology to better connect patients with local healthcare professionals, strengthen rural systems, and ensure Kentucky is prepared to compete for future federal rural health funding opportunities.

This week, the Senate approved the following measures, which now move to the Kentucky House of Representatives for consideration:

SB 2 ensures administrator pay increases do not exceed the average percentage raise given to classroom teachers within the same district. The bill maintains existing waiver flexibility while updating and cleaning up outdated statutory language.

SB 4 creates a statewide leadership development program for new principals beginning in the 2027–2028 school year. First- and early-career principals would participate in a structured practicum focused

on instructional leadership, school safety and accountability, with most costs covered by the state.

SB 45 protects agritourism and working-animal operations from unreasonable local regulations while preserving existing health, safety and animal welfare standards. The measure supports family farms and rural economies.

SB 71 expands required training for local school board members, with a focus on finance, ethics, open meetings and superintendent evaluation. The measure strengthens oversight and promotes greater consistency and accountability in district governance.

SB 118 strengthens consumer protections for credit personal property insurance sold with closed-end loans. It limits coverage terms, requires clear disclosure, prohibits cost-inflating practices and ensures refunds of unearned premiums.

SB 136 streamlines unemployment insurance fraud procedures by requiring suspected cases to be referred directly to federal and local authorities within 30 days. The bill clarifies accountability and

protects due process standards.

SB 141 modernizes Kentucky's public notice laws by clarifying where and how required notices must be published while preserving transparency and controlling taxpayer costs. The bill establishes objective standards for qualifying newspapers, updates timelines, allows limited digital publication standards and ensures public agencies receive fair advertising rates while maintaining print requirements and expanding statewide online access.

SB 145 modernizes alcoholic beverage catering laws and streamlines licensing at the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The bill removes outdated restrictions and requires timely approval or denial of license applications.

SB 153 strengthens protections for homeowners by targeting fraudulent contractor practices, particularly after natural disasters. The measure enhances disclosure requirements and enforcement tools to safeguard families during recovery.

SB 155 establishes a framework for

**UPDATE**  
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**SCRAMBLERS**

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the page!

Fly TEAVIA

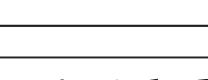
Notebook RIBEND

Walk REDITS

Press NAKED

2/18/26

TODAY'S WORD



"This is delicious — I must really be..."

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