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The Banner/Republican

OPINION

September 02, 2026

DOLLY PARTON LIFE OF MANY COLORS 1946-2026



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American Legend Dolly Parton Dies, at 80-Years

By **Lloyd Ford**
THE LAKE NEWS

Dolly Parton, the Queen of Country, and surely the Queen of all America's heart, died, Tuesday, August 25, 2026, she was 80-years of age. The brief announcement of her death was made by her nephew, Brian Seaver. There were no details about her death released, although it was well known she had faced health issues for nearly a year.

Dolly Parton, was larger than life in many different directions, in addition to being one of the most successful composers, a singer who won 11 Grammy awards, actress, philanthropist and person who inspired millions with her good works and contagious glowing personality.

Dolly Parton channeled her wealth to help people everywhere, especially children. She grew up in a large, poor family in the mountains of East Tennessee and never forgot where she came from. She used her success

to help not just her people but all people. Her loss is beyond measure.

Several years ago, I attended a joint convention of the Tennessee Press Association and the Kentucky Press Association in Gatlinburg, TN. We were invited to Dollywood to meet with Dolly Parton for what we thought would be a show. But that wasn't Dolly's plan, she put on a wonderful show but she also took time to tell us about her program that brings free books to young children. More importantly she took time to talk with the children who were there with the groups and especially encouraged the little girls in the audience.

We got to experience the real Dolly. We learned that while she was a music icon that never will be duplicated, she was also a real human being that wanted to use her success to help other people achieve wonderful lives. She was committed to children, and opened her heart to people everywhere.



In the 30-years since Dolly founded Imagination Library it has mailed more than 300 million free books to children across the US. Dollywood also has a non-profit foundation to help people in the East Tennessee region. She was an inspiration to people where ever she went.

-FISCAL

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collect, and must seek pre-approval from the Fiscal Court. This goes into effect immediately.

In new business, Lucas Gilliam gave the report of funding for the rural secondary road system budget. For fiscal year 26/27, the allotment is \$1,082,475.00. There was a carryover from the last fiscal year of \$81,126, bringing the grand total to \$1,163,601. Routine maintenance and traffic on the 139.3 miles of roads is priced at \$3,108.40 per mile.

Dana Pendley spoke for the Big Muddy Watershed Conservation district and asked the county if they would be able to provide help in clearing an overgrown road way so that repairs can begin on watershed #3. Several of the watersheds were damaged during last year's spring flooding. The Fiscal Court tabled the decision until right-of-way egress and ingress were confirmed.

A tree on the Butler County Industrial Authority property will have to be



▲ PHOTO | LYNN BLEDSOE
Dana Pendley addressed Fiscal Court on behalf of the Big Muddy Watershed Conservation District, requesting assistance with access to watershed repairs.

removed due to danger of damage to a home. The Fiscal Court approved the \$3,900 price for the removal.

The Fiscal Court approved the following: Butler County Tourism financial settlement, to advertise



▲ PHOTO | LYNN BLEDSOE
Butler County Judge-Executive Tim Flener presides over the Aug. 24 Fiscal Court meeting..

for an E911 dispatcher, Treasurer's financial statement, to transfer \$10,000 to the E911 fund, to transfer \$35,000 to the Jail fund, and all other bills and transfers.

The Fiscal Court was then adjourned.

Welcome Rally Car Show Set for Sept. 19

Welcome Fellowship Church will host its Welcome Rally Car Show Saturday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon at 5401 Caneyville Road in Morgantown.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with judging at 11 a.m. The entry fee is \$20. Cars, trucks, Jeeps, semis, bikes and kids' Power Wheels are welcome.

Breakfast will feature smoked fried bologna sandwiches beginning at 9 a.m. until sold out, and lunch will include smoked barbecue plates with potato salad, baked beans and a roll.

Prizes will be awarded, including a Best in Show trophy, first-place plaque and second-place certificate.

All proceeds and donations will go directly toward the Welcome Fellowship Community Playground.

Meta Settlement Will Bring Kentucky \$358 Million

Staff Report

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky will receive \$358 million through a landmark multistate settlement with Meta addressing allegations that Facebook and Instagram were designed to addict children and contributed to the youth mental health crisis.

Kentucky was one of four states leading the case, joining California, Colorado and New Jersey. The agreement was reached approximately one week into a federal trial that had been expected to last six to eight weeks.

The multistate settlement is valued at approximately \$17.1 billion and resolves claims involving nearly every state and several U.S. territories. It is considered one of the largest consumer protection settlements in the nation's history.

"This was never just about the money," Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman said. "Kids deserve a childhood that isn't measured in likes and followers. The online protections delivered by this settlement will bring a generational change that will make social media platforms safer for Kentucky families."

Under the agreement, Meta must implement additional protections for young Facebook and Instagram users. Those measures include daily time limits and "productive pauses," restrictions on access between midnight and 6 a.m. without parental consent and the elimination of push notifications during school hours from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays.

The agreement also requires stronger age-verification measures, additional protections against bullying and content involving suicide, self-harm and eating disorders, and stronger, more accessible parental controls.

Most of the safeguards will remain in effect for at least 10 years and will be reviewed by an independent auditor and participating states.

Settlement funds may be used for public health

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