

LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Sandy Hook turn lane addition coming

**SANDY HOOK**  
KYTC District 9 had a preconstruction meeting Tuesday to discuss the preliminary timeline of construction to install a new turning lane, curb and gutter, and sidewalk in Sandy Hook on Ky. 7 South beginning at milepoint 6.5 and ending at milepoint 6.9. This project is scheduled in several phases and some will begin this month.  
Frederick and May is handling the project, which will offer enhanced safety for Elliott County children, staff, buses and commuters who travel in front of the school campus, day and night.

Speaker set for Huntington Museum

**HUNTINGTON**  
The Booth Foundation will present Walter Gropius Master Artist Linda Nguyen Lopez, who will speak at 7 p.m. Jan. 15 at the Huntington Museum of Art.  
An exhibit of ceramic works by Lopez began at HMA on Dec. 6 and will continue through March 29.  
Lopez is a first-generation American artist of Vietnamese and Mexican descent. Her brightly glazed, anthropomorphic ceramic sculptures explore the poetic potential of the everyday objects.  
Lopez received a BFA from California State University of Chico and an MFA from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her work has been exhibited across the country and around the world.  
For more information, visit hmoa.org or call (304) 529-2701.

Initiative open for health programming

**HUNTINGTON**  
The Pallottine Foundation of Huntington is accepting grant applications for its annual Healthy Communities Initiative through Feb. 24, 2026. The initiative provides grant funding to 501©(3) nonprofit organizations for projects that address the behavioral, emotional, physical and spiritual health needs of the community.  
Healthy Communities also supports projects that improve a nonprofit’s internal capacity to work effectively and develop strong finances, leadership and infrastructure.  
“Our Healthy Communities grant partners provide a variety of programs and services that promote healthy living in the counties we serve,” said Laura Boone, CEO of the Pallottine Foundation of Huntington. “This past year, we partnered with over 160 organizations that work diligently to ensure individuals and families have access to basic needs like food, housing and health care, as well as recovery support and mental and behavioral health services.”  
The funding initiative is open to eligible organizations with programs that support residents in 20 tri-state counties — Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, western Putnam, and Wayne in West Virginia; Boyd, Carter, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Lawrence, Martin, and Pike in Kentucky; and Gallia, Lawrence, and Scioto in Ohio.

MEETINGS

**Today, noon:** City of Ashland commission, regular session.  
**Today, 6 p.m.:** Rowan County Board of Education, regular session.

Staff reports

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE  
ORDINANCE NO. 180, 2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 13, SERIES OF 1939, WHICH PROHIBITED THE PRACTICE OF PALMISTRY, PHRENOLOGY, OR FORTUNE TELLING IN ANY WAY IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY.

\*\*\*\*\*

/s/CHUCK D. CHARLES  
MAYOR

ATTEST:  
/s/ SUSAN W. MADDIX  
CITY CLERK

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:  
September 9, 2025  
READOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:  
December 12, 2025

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the title of Ordinance No. 180, 2025 is a true and accurate summary of the contents of the ordinance prepared by the Legal Department of the City of Ashland, Kentucky, consisting of attorneys licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

/s/Andrew K. Wheeler  
Corporation Counsel

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Andrew K. Wheeler this 12th day of December, 2025. My commission as a Notary Public will expire January 2, 2028..

/s/SAMANTHA A. SALYERS  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
STATE OF KENTUCKY AT LARGE  
ID# KYNP508  
Published: January 8, 2026

STAFF REPORT

**EASTPARK** Shaping Our Appalachian Region’s Eastern Kentucky Talent Network has partnered with Kentucky Power and Ashland Community and Technical College Career Services to conduct a hiring event for Kentucky Power on Wednesday, Jan. 14.  
Kentucky Power is hiring full-time, remote customer service positions.  
The positions, according to a news release, offer competitive pay, comprehensive benefits, paid training and long-term advancement opportunities.  
One-hour interview slots will be available between 10 a.m. and

3 p.m. at Rocky Adkins Pavilion, ACTC (902 Technology Drive, Grayson, KY 41143). The event is currently accepting candidates, who are encouraged to RSVP.  
Participants will interview directly with Kentucky Power hiring leaders.  
Remote customer service representatives will earn \$17 per hour with scheduled raises. They will receive paid training, ongoing coaching, health insurance, life insurance, dental reimbursement, paid vacation, holidays, medical, dental, vision, 401(k) and retirement plans. The job also includes “reliable schedules with opportunities for advancement” and work-from-home flexibility.

SOAR and Kentucky Power said ideal candidates are “community-minded individuals with at least one year of customer service experience who enjoy helping others and are seeking a long-term career.”  
Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, be comfortable working full time from a computer and live in a Kentucky Power service county (Breathitt, Boyd, Carter, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Perry, Pike).  
Visit [soar-ky.org/eastern-kentucky-talent-network/kentucky-power-hiring-event/](https://soar-ky.org/eastern-kentucky-talent-network/kentucky-power-hiring-event/) for more information or to RSVP.

House takes step toward extending Affordable Care Act subsidies, overpowering GOP leadership

**WASHINGTON** (AP) Overpowering Speaker Mike Johnson, a bipartisan coalition in the House voted Wednesday to push forward a measure that would revive an enhanced pandemic-era subsidy that lowered health insurance costs for roughly 22 million people, but that had expired last month.  
The tally of 221-205 was a key test before passage of the bill, which is expected Thursday. and it came about because four GOP centrist lawmakers joined with Democrats in signing a so-called discharge petition to force the vote. After last year’s government shutdown failed to resolve the issue, they said doing nothing was not an option as many of their constituents faced soaring health insurance premiums beginning this month.  
Rep. Mike Lawler of New York, one of the Republicans who crossed party lines to back the Democratic proposal, portrayed it as a vehicle senators could use to reach a compromise.  
“No matter the issue, if the House puts forward relatively strong, bipartisan support, it makes it easier for the senators to get there,” Lawler said.  
In the end, nine Re-



AP PHOTO

**House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill, Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, in Washington.**

publicans joined Democrats to advance the measure.

Republicans go around their leaders

If ultimately successful in the House this week, the voting would show there is bipartisan support for a proposed three-year extension of the tax credits that are available for those who buy insurance through the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. The action of forcing a vote has been an affront to Johnson and GOP leaders, who essentially lost control of their House majority as the renegade lawmakers joined Democrats for the work-around.  
But the Senate is under no requirement to take up the bill.  
Instead, a small group of members from both parties is working on an alternative plan that could find support in both chambers and become law. One proposal would be to shorten the extension of the subsidy to two years and make changes to the program.  
Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said any plan passing muster in the Senate will need to have income limits to ensure that it’s focused on those who most need the help and that beneficiaries would have to at least pay a nominal amount for their coverage.

That way, he said, “insurance companies can’t game the system and auto-enroll people.” Finally, Thune said there would need to be some expansion of health savings accounts, which allow people to save money and withdraw it tax-free as long as the money is spent on qualified medical expenses.

Democrats are pressing the issue

It’s unclear whether the negotiations will yield a bill that the Senate will take up. Democrats are making clear that the higher health insurance costs many Americans are facing will be a political centerpiece of their efforts to retake the majority in the House and Senate in the fall elections.  
Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, who led his party’s effort to push the health care issue forward, particularly challenged Republicans in competitive congressional districts to join if they really wanted to prevent steep premium increases for their constituents. Before Wednesday’s vote, he called on colleagues to “address the health care crisis in this country and make sure that tens of millions of people have the ability to go see a doctor when they need one.”  
Republican Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick, Robert Bresnahan and Ryan

Mackenzie, all from Pennsylvania, and Lawler signed the Democrats’ petition, pushing it to the magic number of 218 needed to force a House vote. All four represent key swing districts whose races will help determine which party takes charge of the House next year.  
Johnson, R-La., had discussed allowing more politically vulnerable GOP lawmakers a chance to vote on bills that would temporarily extend the subsidies while also adding changes such as income caps for beneficiaries. But after days of discussions, the leadership sided with the more conservative wing of the party’s conference, which has assailed the subsidies as propping up a failed program.  
Lawmakers turn to discharge petitions to show support for an action and potentially force a vote on the House floor, but they are rarely successful. This session of Congress has proven an exception.  
A vote requiring the Department of Justice to release the Jeffrey Epstein files, for instance, occurred after Reps. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., and Thomas Massie, R-Ky., introduced a petition on the Epstein Files Transparency Act. The signature effort was backed by all House Democrats and four Republicans.