

Public TV feature explores Ramey-Estep

STAFF REPORT

LOS ANGELES With filming starting recently, a new segment of “All Access hosted by Andy Garcia” will highlight how comprehensive healthcare infrastructure is transforming rural recovery, according to a news release.

Ramey-Estep Homes, Inc, operating as Ramey-Estep/Re-group, will showcase its evolution into a fully integrated healthcare organization in east-

ern Kentucky. The educational feature focuses on moving away from episodic crisis management toward long-term, family-centered support models that unite mental health services, substance use treatment, social supports and primary medical care under one unified system, the release stated.

The program highlights how collecting diverse behavioral health data across rural populations drives better patient outcomes. By tracking

RAMEY ESTEP

long-term recovery metrics, family stability indicators, and community reintegration, Ramey-Estep/Re-group demonstrates why treating physical and mental health together is essential for underserved areas. Viewers will gain valuable insight into how accessible, community-based clinical networks reduce the strain on

regional health systems while helping individuals rebuild their lives and support their families, according to the release.

“No single organization can address the complex healthcare challenges facing rural Kentucky alone,” said Ginny Anderson, CEO of Ramey-Estep/Re-Group. “Meaningful

progress happens when healthcare providers, schools, social service agencies, civic leaders and community partners work together around the needs of individuals and families. By combining integrated clinical care with strong local partnerships, we can reduce barriers, improve continuity, and build a more sustainable framework for recovery and healing.”

Visit allaccessptv.com or rameyestep.com for more information.

Song of Life, A New JSF Book

Jesse Stuart was a man of cyclonic energy and activity. He was a prolific author, a far-sighted conservationist, an active spokesperson for the people of his Appalachian homeland, and “first, last, and always,” said Stuart, “I am a teacher. Good teaching is forever, and the teacher is immortal.”

Stuart’s teaching career began in 1935 at Cane Creek Elementary School, a one-room school in Greenup County. In the years ahead, he would serve as principal of several Greenup County schools. In the 1932-33 school year, he was the superintendent of Greenup County Schools. His teaching opportunities expanded in direct proportion to his fame as a writer. For example, in the summer of 1958, he taught graduate classes in the College of Education at the University of Nevada in Reno. Two years later, he taught for a year

at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.

Stuart enjoyed classroom teaching, but he especially enjoyed teaching writers. Between 1969-1977, he was the star attraction each summer



JIM GIFFORD

at Murray State University’s Jesse Stuart Creative Writing Workshop. The program began with 58 students in 1969 and peaked at 78 students from 27 states in 1977. Students were drawn like moths to Stuart’s infectious light. During those summer workshops, he trained more than 500 writers and teachers.

Following Stuart’s death in 1984, the Jesse Stuart Foundation became Stuart’s institutional extension, advancing literacy by publishing and teaching for all levels. We have managed his massive literary estate, republished his books,

promoted Stuart’s legacy, and offered a broad range of public activities including writing workshops in the last three years.

The 2026 Jesse Stuart Writers Workshop, an immersive writing event, took place April 17-18 at The Delta Marriott Hotel in Ashland. The workshop was well-attended and brought together acclaimed authors, educators, and literary professionals for engaging sessions designed to inspire, educate, and support writers of all levels. Al Cross, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, was the keynote speaker on Friday and offered another session the following day. Other presenters were the great biographer Carol Boggess, nonfiction writer Brenda Evans, editor and scholar Jim Gifford, journalist Keith Kappes, researcher and writer John W. McCauley, and book designer Adam VanKirk.

As a further benefit to workshop attendees, the

JSF decided to publish an anthology of poetry and prose from workshop registrants, staff, volunteers, and sponsors. Thirty-nine authors provided a total of 57 pieces in general categories of poetry, essays, articles, and short stories that comprise our forthcoming anthology, “Song of Life: Poetry & Prose from the 2026 Jesse Stuart Writers Workshop.” This collection shares the work of both experienced and beginning writers. We are pleased to be able to present this absorbing book that introduces poetry and prose as dynamic and diverse as Kentucky itself.

Here you will find pieces that examine what it means to be a Kentuckian, exploring the power of place, people, and change as it impacts our lives. Like all good literature, these pieces enter new worlds and implore us to look more critically at our own lives.

This book is the passionate product of many

people. My co-editors, Gwen Akers (who writes under G. Akers), Linda Harbison, Brenda Evans, and I are indebted to the authors who provided work that was strong and, in some cases, brilliant.

Gwen Akers, a young woman from Ashland with a shining bright professional future, provided organizational and editorial leadership for the project. Her tireless work and her management skills allowed us to assemble an excellent manuscript in two months.

Linda Harbison, Brenda Evans, and I, along with Gwen, read and edited 57 submissions. Some were so well-written that they required

almost no editing. Jesse Stuart Foundation staff members Judith Kidwell and Debbie Bustetter helped throughout the project. Adam VanKirk, the CEO of Right Eye Graphics in Ashland, designed a beautiful book that will be in print by September. As soon as the book is available, we plan to invite the public to a launch party at The Delta Marriott Hotel in downtown Ashland. Watch for more details on the launch party in future issues of *The Daily Independent*.

JAMES M. GIFFORD, Ph.D., is CEO and Senior Editor of the Jesse Stuart Foundation.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Boyd County Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax levy of 68.8 cents on real property and 70.5 cents on personal property. The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 70.5 cents on real property and 70.5 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$11,757,026.94. The proposed General Fund tax rate is the compensating tax for 2027 and is expected to produce \$12,780,787.37.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year (if 100% collected). The general areas to which revenue of \$1,023,760.43 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: Cost of collections, \$383,423.62 and instruction, \$640,336.81.

The General Assembly has required the publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.

This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017.

Published: August 15 & 22, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE PROPERTY TAX HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held by the City of Bellefonte, Kentucky, at the Bellefonte City Building on August 24, 2026, at 6:15 p.m. for Citizens regarding the proposed 2026-2027 Tax Rates on real property.

Last Year's (2025-2026) Property Tax Rate = 38.40 cents per \$100

Last Year's (2025-2026) Personal Property Tax Rate = 38.40cents per \$100

The tax rate levied in the year 2025 was 38.40 cents per \$100 of valuation of real property and the revenue produced by that rate was \$350,390.00The tax rate levied in the year 2025 was 38.40 cents per \$100 of valuation of personal property and the revenue produced by that rate was \$1663.00.

The proposed tax rate, same as last year, for 2026 is 38.40 cents per \$100 of valuation of real property and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$359,565.00. The proposed tax rate in the year 2026 for personal property is 38.40 cents per \$100 of valuation and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$3,199.00. This will increase revenues in the amount of \$10,711.00 for the year.

The proposed maximum tax rate for the year 2026 is 39.10 cents per \$100 of valuation of real property and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$366,135.00. The proposed maximum tax rate for personal property in the year 2026 is 39.10 cents per \$100 of valuation and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$3258.00. This will increase revenues in the amount of \$17,340.00 for the year.

The proposed compensating tax rate for 2026 is 36.60 cents per \$100 of valuation of real property and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$338,028.00. The proposed compensating tax rate for personal property in the year 2026 is 36.60cents per \$100 of valuation and the revenue produced by that rate is \$3049.00 This will increase revenues in the amount of 5,527.00for the year.

The proposed substitute tax rate for 2026 is 37.00 cents per \$100 of valuation of real property and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$339,900.00. The proposed substitute tax rate for personal property in the year 2026 is 37.00 cents per \$100 of valuation and the revenue produced by that rate is \$3,083.00. This will increase revenues in the amount of \$3,765.00 for the year.

The City of Bellefonte proposes to exceed the compensating tax rate by levying a proposed maximum tax rate which will be spent in the following general areas of City government: Administration, Public Safety, and Street. Property taxes will be due on December 31, 2026.

The 2026-2027 Property Tax Rates are available at 705 Bellefonte-Princess Road, Ashland, KY from August 14, 2026, Monday thru Friday.

The General Assembly requires publication of this advertisement and the information therein.

**TERRI BARNES
CITY CLERK
705 Bellefonte-Princess Road
Ashland, KY 41101
(606)324-6035**

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LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Signal work planned on U.S. 60 SUMMIT

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) advises motorists to watch for flagged traffic on U.S. 60 in Boyd County, on Sunday, Aug. 16, as AEP crews upgrade power lines along Summit Road.

AEP will turn power off to the signal at U.S. 60 and Summit Road. Work will be between 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. from mile points 7 to 8. Motorists should watch for temporary lane closures, and stopped traffic at different intervals.

Road work schedules are subject to change depending on weather conditions. Motorists are asked to heed all warning signs, slow down in work zones, and remain aware of workers and construction equipment when traveling. For up-to-date traffic information, go to goky.ky.gov or use the WAZE app.

Chrysalis opening in Huntington

HUNTINGTON
RenewAll Inc. an-

nounced the grand opening celebrating and ribbon-cutting of “Chrysalis: A Creative Reuse Pop-Up,” happening Sunday, Aug. 30, from 4-6 p.m. at RenewAll’s Pop-UP West Space at 725 W. 14th Street in Huntington’s Historic Central City District.

Chrysalis is a temporary gathering space with events in Central City for creative reuse, community building and upcycling workshops.

Bay Epperly, the lead behind Chrysalis, said, “The two things most important to me in my personal and professional life are community and the impact we have on the environment.”

Chrysalis will welcome Xena Bunton, a Huntington photographer who owns Vend and Snap, to join the pop-up to lead

creative events for the community. She will host studio hours, a Vinyl Paint and Picnic under the gazebo, a Couple’s iPhone Photo Bootcamp and a Little Lens Explorer Workshop.

Chrysalis will host an Eco-Swap, Four Fixer Mixers, a two-day thrift market and a Scrap & Yap throughout September.

Check out the Chrysalis Creative Reuse Pop-Up Facebook page for more information.

MEETING

• Monday, 5:30 p.m.: Greenup County Board of Education, regular session, central office.

Staff reports

FRIENDS OF HOSPICE MEETING INVITATION

We invite you to annend an informational session about the Friends of Hospice. Join us as we reflect on the organization's history, share our vision for the future, and explore ways to become involved. Current Friends, as well as anyone interested in learning more about the Friends of Hospice, are warmly encouraged to attend.

Friday, August 21, 2026

12:00 P.M.

Community Hospice

1480 Carter Avenue, Ashland, KY

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

CONTACT:

Andrea Arnett, Director of Community Engagement: **606.329.1890**
Kathy Elam, President, Friends of Hospice: **740.525.2741**

HOW TO REACH US

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