

Staging explained: Understanding the severity of a cancer diagnosis

Receiving a cancer diagnosis can be daunting enough, and hearing terms like “stage 3” or “stage 4” can be even scarier. But what do these numbers mean?

Staging is the way physicians will measure how much cancer is in the body. When cancer is diagnosed, oncologists will assign it a stage based on information they’ve gathered during hospital or clinic visits: physical examinations;



REEMA PATEL

imaging like X-rays, mammograms, CT and PET scans; biopsies, and more.

An initial staging may change and become more precise after treatment, especially when tumors are removed through surgery and can be sent to a lab for further testing.

Breaking down the stages

Staging for solid tumors can vary based on the type of cancer, but it generally falls into five categories: Stage 0 through stage 4. (Blood cancers are staged in a different way.) The main three factors that physicians use for

staging are the tumor size and/or growth, whether nearby lymph nodes are affected, and whether it has spread beyond where it originally began growing (known as metastasis).

These are general guidelines to understand how staging is determined, but keep in mind that there are differences in cancer types:

- **Stage 0:** A cancer that’s diagnosed extremely early; abnormal or pre-cancerous cells that may not even have formed a cancer yet. These cells are contained to a very small, localized location. You may have also heard the Latin phrase *in situ* used with these cancers in a formal diagnosis, such as “squamous cell carcinoma *in situ*” (a Stage 0 skin cancer.) *In situ* means “in its original place.”

- **Stage 1:** A small tumor occurring in one area of the body; the cancerous cells have not spread anywhere else.

- **Stage 2:** Larger tumors. At this stage, cancer might also be in the lymph nodes, though that is not always the case.

- **Stage 3:** A tumor that’s beginning to spread; it’s grown into other surrounding tissues and likely extending to nearby lymph nodes.

- **Stage 4:** The original cancer has spread to other sites of the body, to organs near or far. For example: lung cancer with metastasis to the brain would be a stage 4 lung cancer.

Your provider may also include a letter — A through D — to further categorize each numbered stage based on size and lymph node involvement.

The reason preventative cancer screenings like colonoscopies, mammograms, or low-dose CT scans are so important is because regular screening is more likely to find a cancer at its earliest stages – 0-2 – when it’s the most treatable or even curable.

Why does staging matter?

Assigning stages for cancers is important for both patients and their healthcare providers. Physicians use staging to help determine a precise treatment plan, because different stages require different approaches. Having set guidelines that dictate the stage of a cancer helps all of a patient’s care providers understand the disease they’re working to treat.

It also supports research and future treatments. Clinical trials often use data on cancer staging to help inform their protocols,

and many trials are developed for cancers in specific stages. Healthcare providers can use staging to find potential new therapeutic options in open clinical trials and to develop a prognosis and outcomes.

Additionally, it helps patients understand the severity of their disease. A stage 4 cancer could be more difficult to treat than a stage 1 cancer. However, a stage 4 cancer does not always mean the person doesn’t have long to live — but it may mean a physician recommends a more aggressive treatment plan than what could have been done at an earlier stage.

Overall, patients with all stages of cancers have much better outcomes when they receive care from a team of providers from different specialties, known as multidisciplinary care. At the UK Markey Cancer Center, we have entire physician teams dedicated to specific types of cancer as well as pathologists, pharmacists, lab researchers, physical therapists and more who work together to provide care, ensuring every patient gets the specialized treatment they need for their particular cancer.

REEMA PATEL, M.D., is a medical oncologist with the UK Markey Cancer Center.

SHOW

From Page A1

About a week after making the splash announcement across social media and radio stations, Martin posted on the Halloween Hootenanny Facebook page he was scammed by a “talent agency in California called Live Bookings,” to which he’d already forked over \$65,000.

“I am really hurting over this and hope people know I did not try and scam anyone,” Martin posted.

Tickets for Saturday had not gone on sale yet, thankfully, Martin said.

Martin said someone familiar with Neal Booking Agency, which has exclusive rights to booking HARDY, mentioned something “didn’t feel right” about the situation. When Martin got in touch with HARDY’s camp, they apologized and said this had never happened to them before. They advised Martin to seek legal counsel, which he did.

Martin has organized music festivals for years. Prior to the Hootenanny, he spearheaded the End of Summer Smash for a dozen years.

Throughout the last several months, everything seemed legitimate, he said.

Initially, Martin worked a connection he had when a former member of HARDY’s production team. He thought he was going the correct direction when he hooked up with Live Bookings, which has a website — live-bookings.com.

Martin had a pair of Zoom calls with people claiming to represent said

agency. Soon after, a date was set — Oct. 3 — and a contract was issued. The parties had agreed on \$100,000.

Martin had exchanged loads of information, including logistical details, event posters, stage and sound specifics, and even made deposits totaling nearly \$65,000 when he ultimately discovered it was a scam.

“Everything baffles me, because it’s been this same process with other bands I’ve had like Saving Abel, Puddle of Mud, Struggle Jennings, Hinder. These people have dealt with me for months. A scammer would literally have to go extra miles,” Martin said.

One person even posed as the manager for HARDY, signing his name to what appeared to be official documents, Martin said.

Martin said even after he made the post revealing the scam, he continues to receive information from “Live Bookings.”

The latest email is a letter from “Charlotte Newman” indicating Martin has clearance to publicly announce the artist, launch ticket sales and more.

Upon further investigation, the website contact information is clearly suspicious, with a phone number listed as (555) 123-4567 and the address as 123 Celebrity Ave. in Los Angeles.

Martin sought legal counsel and is pursuing legal action. He is talking with law enforcement about the details soon, he said.

“I feel like a fool because I’ve let people down,” Martin said. “I would like to thank everybody for their con-

tinued support. A lot of people have come to me and said they still support me and things like this happen, that they’re sorry it happened to us. I appreciate that.”

Moving forward

The Halloween Hootenanny XI, presented by Country’s Tattoo Saloon, theme remains “Going for Broke,” with the additional message of “The Show Must Go On.”

Although HARDY won’t be in South Shore on Saturday, Oct. 3, plenty of talented acts are lined up for the three-day event. Martin is still looking to fill the Saturday night void, but he is confident everything will go well.

“If we happen to come across another headliner to help cover costs, great, but it’s going to be a great show,” Martin said.

He said Sunday head-

liner Scotty Austin promised to “put on the best show to make up for anything we’ve lost,” Martin said.

The Sunday, Oct. 4, lineup is as follows: Sonny B, 3-3:30 p.m.; Tuesday Atlas, 3:45-4:15; Cryptic Writings, 4:30-5; Serena’s Fire, 5:15-5:45; Ashes to Omens, 6-6:30; Rahway, 6:45-7:15; Gravel Switch, 7:30-8; Below 7, 8:15-8:45; and Scotty Austin hits the stage at 9 p.m.

Saturday’s lineup features Joshua Picklesimer, Aaron Marshall Miller, Monkey’s Uncle and more.

The Hootenanny kicks off Friday with Grave Creek and Redefyned, with potential for more acts. Gates open at 3 p.m. Friday, noon Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission on Friday is free. Wireman’s Stables

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Boyd County Board of Elections
September Meeting

Date: 09-23-2026
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Boyd County Clerk’s Office
Election Department
2800 Louisa St.
Catlettsburg, KY 41129
(606) 739-5116

Kevin Johnston
County Clerk
Boyd County

Published: September 19, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID - SURPLUS VEHICLE

The Boyd County Board of Education is officially accepting sealed bids for the sale of a 2010 Ford Explorer. The vehicle has 170,000+ miles and will be sold strictly in as-is condition.

Submission Details: Bidders must submit their offers in a sealed, clearly marked envelope. Bids must be received no later than 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at the Boyd County Board of Education central office:

- **Address:** 1104 Bob McCullough Dr, Ashland, KY 41102
- **Inquiries & Viewings:** To schedule an inspection or to request additional information, please contact **Bob Higginbotham at 606-928-7126.**

The Boyd County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formalities, or accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the District.

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and Venue is at 79 Piper Court in South Shore. There will be plenty of parking on about 7 or 8 acres of land. Martin said to follow the signs from U.S. 23.

The event will feature a haunted house, a mechanical bull, numerous vendors and Kentucky Mist Distillery, which is based in Whitesburg.

People can bring in their own coolers for a small fee, he said.

“I have poured my heart and soul into this,” Martin said. “We hope the community comes out and has a really good time.”

Follow the Halloween Hootenanny Facebook page for more details.

(606) 326-2664 |
asnyder@dailyindependent.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC AUCTION

IAA ASHLAND
123 Four Wheel Dr. Ashland KY
(606) 928-1234
Sale Date: Sept. 29 9:30 am
45739846 - 2017 NISSAN JUKE
JN8AF5MVXHT751126
Published: September 19, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENTION
TO APPLY FOR A
KENTUCKY ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGE
LICENSE

Please take notice that Jose Lopez-Tavarez, doing business as Tacos & Tequila Bar and Grill, located at 1201 Greenup Ave, Ashland, 41101, hereby declares intention(s) to apply for a NQ2 Retail Drink and Special Sunday Retail Drink Alcoholic beverage license(s) no later than 10/31/2026 with the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The business to be licensed is owned by Jose Lopez-Tavarez, owner, located at 2451 McComas Rd, Barboursville, WV 25504. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license by writing the: Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
500 Mero Street, 2NW32
Frankfort, KY 40601.
This notice is published in accordance with KRS Chapter 243.
Published: September 19, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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9. Names and Addresses of General Manager - Ashley Fletcher, PO Box 311, Ashland, KY 41105; Editor, Aaron Snyder, PO Box 311, Ashland, KY 41105.		
10. Owner - CNHI, LLC, 201 Monroe Street, STE 450 Montgomery, AL 36104;		
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a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	2,569	2,563
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
b.(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions	372	403
b.(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions	406	374
b.(3) Paid Distribution Outside The Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	1,454	1,597
b.(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e/g/. First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution	2,232	2,374
d.Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
d.(1)Outside-County	46	46
d.(2)Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies	0	0
d. (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS	0	0
d.(4)Free Distribution Outside the mail	26	26
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	72	72
f. Total Distribution	2,303	2,446
g. Copies not distributed	266	217
h. Total	2,570	2,663
i. Percent Paid	96.88%	97.06%
16. Electronic copy circulation	Average No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	308	324
b. Total Paid Print Copies and Paid Electronic Copies	2,540	2,698
c. Total Print Distribution and Paid Electronic Copies	2,612	2,770
d. Percent paid	97.24%	97.04%
17. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.		
Ashley Fletcher General Manager		
Published: September 19, 2026		