

THE ELLIOTT COUNTY NEWS

EARL W. KINNER FLO WHITLEY RICK ADKINS

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— Dolly Parton —
Jan. 19, 1946 — Aug. 25, 2026

Legendary entertainer Dolly Parton passes on Aug. 25th at age of 80

President orders flags to be lowered in honor of East Tenn. native

Country music legend, actress, philanthropist and American icon Dolly Parton died on Tuesday, Aug. 25, at the age of 80.

Bryan Seaver, Parton's nephew and head of security, announced her passing via a video message on Tuesday: "My family and I have shared a lifetime of beautiful memories with Dolly," Seaver said. "So have you. She has always been on your television, your record player, your CD, and on your phone playlist, becoming an extended part of your family, whether you liked it or not ... She will always love you."

Parton, a native of eastern Tennessee, sold more than 100 million records worldwide during the course of a six-decade career that produced numerous self-penned signature hits including "Jolene", "I Will Always Love You" and "9 to 5".

The song "9 to 5" became the inspiration for the movie of the same name starring Parton, who also acted in the beloved film *Steel Magnolias* with Sally

Field, Shirley MacLaine, Daryl Hannah, Olympia Dukakis and Julia Roberts.

One of Parton's most notable philanthropic efforts was the Imagination Library — a program she established to promote literacy by providing free books to children in honor of her father, who never learned to read or write.

Courier Publishing Editor Miranda M. Cantrell acknowledged Parton's far-reaching impact in an Aug. 25 Facebook posting:

...
"Dolly Parton was a poor girl from Appalachia who became one of the biggest cultural icons in American history. I don't know if she ever envisioned that would happen when she started her music career, but as long as the earth is still standing everyone will always know who Dolly Parton was."

...
President Donald Trump on Aug. 25 ordered that American flags be lowered for one week in Parton's honor.

Parton — who had recently stepped back from public appearances due to illness — was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Dean, who passed away last year.



Daxon Lewis, Flo Whitley, Dwight Whitley and Neil Kendrick with Hallie Adams, front and center.

Sandy Hook Socials

On Sunday, Aug. 23, Dwight and Flo Whitley were in Mayslick, Ky., visiting with their granddaughter, Rebecka Vanover, and her family. They all celebrated Doris Vanover's 84th birthday and visited with family and friends after the wonderful beef brisket meal that Rebecka's husband, Wes, prepared. After dinner we watched Rebecka and her friend, Allison, ride horses. We all had a wonderful afternoon.

Sue Henson Carnes, of Morrow, Ohio, reported that her sister, Ethel Marie Henson Stamper, of Dayton, Ohio, was taken to the hospital unresponsive and was later transferred to hospice care in Dayton. She

requests prayers.

Landon Stafford, of Sandy Hook, has decided to transfer to Fleming County for the school year so he can play football. He attended school on Monday to say goodbye to his friends and classmates in Sandy Hook. Good luck in your new school in Flemingsburg!

Dwight and Flo Whitley and Neil Kendrick met in Morehead with Daxon Lewis, director of the Kentucky Center for Traditional Music, and Hallie Adams, media specialist for KCTM, to discuss an upcoming project. They all enjoyed talking and preparing a future project and meeting again in November.

Elliott students named to Dean's List at EKU

RICHMOND, Ky., Aug. 11 — Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) has announced the recipients of the Dean's List, Dean's Award and President's Award for the Spring 2026 semester.

Among students selected to receive the EKU President's Award was Ashley M. Sparks from Elliott County.

The President's Award was established to recognize outstanding academic achievement, earned by full-time undergraduate students who attain a 4.0 GPA for the semester.

Sparks was also named to the Dean's List. To achieve Dean's List honors, students attempting 4 or more credit hours must earn a minimum 3.5 GPA. All grade point averages are out of a possible 4.0.

Sparks, an Elliott County High School graduate, is an Elementary Education major.

Events ...

(Continued From Page One)

Rise & Shine Sourdough Basics Saturday, Nov. 7

The Rise and Shine Sourdough Basics class will be 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Elliott County Extension Office located at 2944 South KY 7 in Sandy Hook.

Discover the art of sourdough in this hands-on class! Learn how to care for a sourdough starter, mix and shape dough, and bake a delicious homemade loaf.

Whether you're a beginner or looking improve your skills, you'll leave with the knowledge and confidence to start baking sourdough at home. All participants will leave with a starter.

Class is limited to 10. Please call 606-738-6400 to RSVP.

REMEMBERING DOLLY
I'm not offended by all the dumb blond jokes, because I know I'm not dumb — and I'm not blonde either.

— Dolly Parton

Way Back When Column: Beans

By Jo Ann Butts

Way back when I was a kid growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, up in our holler of Middlefork we grew a lot of vegetables and ate on them all summer. Then we canned up the rest for the winter.

All Appalachian folks knew how to grow — or learned pretty quick — which ones were for survival, because their very lives depended on these crops. Not only for themselves, but for their livestock as well.

As a little kid I didn't understand the importance of learning the different varieties of the green beans that we grew and canned.

Good beans kept you living good, but the bad ones you knew to pitch and never raise again.

As a young girl I remember one year we raised Kentucky Wonder Pole beans on teepees. They did great in our garden row and were hanging full of long clusters of beautiful green beans. For a gardener, it was really a sight to behold.

It was hot summer time, and my middle sister and I would run out to the garden as fast as we could to grab and strip off those beans by handfuls. Then we would race back to the house so we wouldn't miss any of the soap opera that was on TV.

Sometimes we made it back before the commercial was off. We were fast. (LOL)

Our job was to pick and break beans for Mommy to can. We did that, successfully.

My Dad was working on his mill up the holler in the sawmill

bottom. He saw us dart out there and back in again many times that day.

Daddy (the man who saw it all) must have been amused with our actions because when he came in for supper, he said, "Girls where was the fire today?"

Then he laughed, "I seen you all running to the garden, trip after trip."

We told him why.

Mommy grew some bush beans too. I remember we mixed the green ones with the yellow, and they were pretty. We took them to a family reunion at Ashland Park, but they weren't the kind of beans to sustain a family in hard times.

We also raised big cornfields up the holler. Mommy planted long pole beans in several of the upper rows. She sent my older brother and me up to the cornfield with a bushel basket to pick it full of beans for her to can.

Well, we got to playing hide and seek in the very tall corn rows. We only picked the basket half full and went back to the house to tell her we couldn't find anymore.

SO, she told us straight, "I know those beans are there. You go back and pick until that bushel basket is full."

And, yes, we found them — and it didn't take that long..

The old saying, "He or she don't know about beans" or "ain't worth a hill of beans" are good statements.

Beans were the vital existence of some of the older generations.

Beans, string beans, shuck

beans, dried beans, canned beans, fresh beans, seed beans — they kept people alive in hard times. And in good times, they are valuable. But the older me is still learning about them more and more.

As a younger adult here in the Elliott County, I did the farmers market for probably 10 years. I learned a lot about the heirloom beans from Linda and Donald Kitchen. They grew and sold tons of family heirloom pole beans at the market. I learned a lot from Linda.

We grew an heirloom bean, called the McCaslan pole bean. It was stringless, had great flavor, and the seed was sold at Southern States in Grayson, Ky.

Neither one of us thought a thing about preserving the bean by saving the seeds, because we could buy it every year at the store. But that precious bean seed was compromised with at least six different hard tough hulled stringy bean varieties in the same package.

For several years, I tried a different seed company that promised this bean is long sweet and stringless, but come to find out, they were all supplied by the same grower up in Washington State.

So that's why I'm writing this bean story to see if any of my readers had the ability to save any seeds of the McCaslans from some of their beans. Or maybe know someone who has the real bean seed. I'd love just a few of the seeds — so I can grow them again as I did Way Back When.

Jo Ann Butts
606-738-9839

LEGAL NOTICE

The Elliott County Cooperation Extension District's most recent audit and adopted budget can be viewed anytime on the Department for Local Government's Public Portal website. If you would like to view our most recent financial statement, please visit us at our home office located at 2944 South KY 7, Sandy Hook, KY 41171, during our normal office hours Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. This ad was paid for by Elliott County Cooperative Extension Office dollars.

<http://kydlgweb.ky.gov> Per KRS 65A.080(2)

You're Invited!

OPEN HOUSE

For Seniors 60 & Older

Come See What Makes Our Senior Center So Special!

We're more than a center—we're a community! ♥

📅 DATE:

August 28th, 2026

🕒 TIME:

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

📍 LOCATION:

Elliott County Senior Center
Main Street
Sandy Hook, KY

Join us for our Open House and see all the fun activities, friendly faces, and wonderful opportunities our seniors enjoy every day! ♥

Creative Activities

Stay Active

Great Friends

Fun & Games

♥ COME FOR A VISIT, STAY FOR THE SMILES! ♥

Bring a friend and discover how fun every day can be!

♥ WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU! ♥