



August 17, a male, Hudson Layne Johnson, born to Nevah Ford Willkom and Landyn Johnson of Crab Orchard.

August 20, a male, Cooper Reid Cole, born to Tara and Trevor Cole of Columbia.

GCCP Family Ministry Center

GCCP/Family Ministry Center is open for shopping on Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. We have clothing for the entire family, household good, and antiques, etc. We are closed the second week of every month. Call 792-3300 if you need anything.

‘Ag Tag’ Donations Reach More Than \$940,000 For 2026

Total divided among 4-H, FFA, KDA

Kentucky drivers donated more than \$940,000 for the Ag Tag Program in 2026. The total brings the amount raised for agriculture youth since 2024 under Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell to more than \$2.8 million.

“Kentucky farmers and agricultural enthusiasts have helped us reach another fantastic total for the Ag Tag Program this year,” Commissioner Shell said. “This couldn’t be possible without the wonderful support of those who see value in supporting the next generation of farmers through their donations to the Ag Tag Fund. It’s that generosity that will help ensure Kentucky agriculture has a bright future.”

This year’s total, \$941,630, includes funds generated by the purchase or renewal of Kentucky’s farm vehicle license plate and the new “Friends of Agriculture” special license plate that became available in February. Each plate includes a fee that goes into the “Ag Tag” fund. The farm license plate generated \$927,585, while the “Friends of Agriculture” special plate generated \$14,045.

The fees are divided equally between Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. This year, each group will receive \$313,876.67.

Half of the 4-H and FFA donations are returned to local councils and chapters, meaning leaders in the donating community can use those funds to cover the cost of 4-H and FFA camp and other leadership programs for youth. County 4-H councils regularly use Ag Tag dollars to provide 4-H camp scholarships and travel for life-changing, educational experiences to enable local 4-H youth to grow as leaders and engaged citizens. FFA chapters were free to use the money to meet the greatest needs in their community, such as FFA jackets for students in



“Stories of My Life”

By Shelby Roy Hopkins

A Hard Stick

Yesterday, I had to have some blood drawn at the doctor’s office in Lexington. This routine and quite simple facet of health care is not much more than an inconvenience for most people. For me, however, it is a much bigger deal. I have never been afraid of sharp and pointy needles being jabbed into my body, but I must confess I have never liked it either.

After I gave the nurse a urine sample, I had a short discussion with my doctor. As the discussion drew to a close, he asked, “Have you had your blood test yet?” I answered, “No.” The kind and courteous doctor then directed me downstairs to the lab where the procedure was to be performed. As I left the doctor’s office, I walked along the hallways of the beautiful building, all the while wondering to myself about the capabilities of the poor, unsuspecting person who waited below.

After signing in at the lab, I looked at my phone for just a couple of minutes be-

fore they called my name. A nice, middle-aged lady politely greeted me and led me back into Room #5. With a cursory look around the little room, I couldn’t help but wonder how this might “go down.” She asked me, “Which arm would you like for me to draw the blood from?” as she directed me to sit in the large chair with two solid armrests.

I replied, “Honey, it doesn’t matter at all. Just use either one that works best.” A slight sense of trepidation began to swell up inside me as the lady began to look at my arms. This well-rehearsed routine always plays out the exact same way. The person begins to examine my arms carefully. While the phlebotomist searches valiantly for a vein, I find myself searching too. I stare quizzically at my arms and can’t help but notice their wonderful attributes. I think to myself, “I have always liked my arms; They have served me well throughout my lifetime; I have pretty arms; I wonder why they don’t have

any veins in them?” I can’t help but think, “I suppose this lady likes my arms too.” “She sure seems to be enjoying looking so closely at them as she rubs them from top to bottom.”

Then, just like every other time in every other place when I have had this procedure done, the following statement is uttered, “Wow, you sure have veins that are hard to find!” “I’m not sure you have any.” I try to be polite as I reply, “Yes, that’s what I have been told by everyone who has ever tried to take blood from me.” As the probe continues, I am sure my blood pressure begins to rise. I can’t keep from fidgeting just a bit as I sit there watching the scenario play out.

After several minutes, the examiner then gives up entirely on my arms and begins to examine my hands. I knew this was coming, I just wasn’t exactly sure when this “stage two” part of the examination would begin. Staring at the backside of my hands like a mis-guided fortune teller, my hands are rubbed, caressed, and fondled in a way most massage therapists could only envy. As the probe intensifies, incoherent utterings and murmurs begin to escape the examiner’s lips. I try to listen, but my now racing heart’s accelerated blood pumping makes my ears not work too well.

Usually, the examiner then

states in a most un reassuringly manner the following statement. “Well, I’ve finally found one, but I don’t believe it’ll work. All I can do is give it a try.” I try to be polite and interject some small talk, but the words are hard to find. Stumbling with my words, I try to encourage the dear practitioner in the best way possible, knowing full well what lies ahead.

As the needle is inserted, the lady says, “There’s going to be a sting.” These six little words send shock waves throughout my body. My bottom, just recently attached comfortably to the chair seat, now begins to gravitate upwardly as every fiber of my being anticipates the dreaded “sting.” The “sting” is never as bad as the anticipation of the “sting.” Sadly, however, the first probe nearly always fails. Then, words that should never be uttered reverberate throughout the little room with the curtain doorway. “Well, that vein has “rolled on me.” Or, “That vein has collapsed.” “I guess I’ll just have to look for another one.”

I don’t know the first thing about a phlebotomist’s education or the training they receive. I do know this idea of describing what has gone wrong during the procedure should be off limits in every way. Their talk should be about their family, their hopes, their dreams or aspirations. Nothing should ever

be said about veins and all their nuances.

The bandage used for wrapping the arm to expose the veins is re-attached in another place. I am instructed to “clinch my fist more tightly than before.” As the soft, and somewhat thinly veiled cursing escapes the examiner’s lips, all thoughts of polite conversation from me drift aimlessly away. Now, it has become a matter of survival. The “stings” come again and again as the probing intensifies.

As the phlebotomist leaves the room in search of a more qualified or capable “blood extractor,” I sit there re-examining my entire life. Maybe I should have been kinder. Maybe I should have given a longer hug to Deb before I left her that morning. Maybe I should have just ignored this blood test altogether.

As the newest recruit brushes back the curtain covering the door, they gasp as the whiteness of my face and the despair of my countenance. Challenged by my appearance, they march in, determined to draw the necessary blood from my unwilling veins. As this newest person begins to examine my arms and hands, I try to sit still and once again be polite. Soon, the now familiar words escape their lips, “Wow, you sure have veins that are hard to find...”



Garrard Central Record

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LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Kentucky, Garrard District Court - Probate No. 26-P-00069, Notice to Creditors In Re: Estate of Patricia Johnson, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that by order of the Garrard District Court, Lancaster, KY in probate number 26-P-00069 dated August 20, 2026, Bobby Gene Johnson was appointed Executor of the estate of Patricia Johnson.

All claims against the estate of Patricia Johnson, deceased, must be presented to Bobby Johnson, 4808 Fall Lick Road, Crab Orchard, KY 40419, Executor of the Estate of Patricia Johnson or to the attorney Johnny Bolton, P.O. Box 611, Lancaster, KY 40444 within 6 months after August 21, 2026.

/s/Bethany Denny
Circuit Clerk
Garrard District Court
Garrard Justice Center
54 Stanford Street
Lancaster, KY 40444

ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

The Garrard County Public Library will accept sealed bids for the sale of a Canon Imagerunner 2525 black-and-white photocopier. The copier may be viewed at the Garrard County Public Library, 101 Lexington Street, Lancaster, KY 40444, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 A.M. on Monday, September 7, 2026, and will be opened publicly at that time at the Garrard County Public Library. Item is being sold as is, where is. Copier must be picked up by the winning bidder by close of business on September 11, 2026, and paid for upon receipt. Garrard County Public Library reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Please contact Laura McWilliams at 859-792-3424 for more information. **BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN SEALED ENVELOPES! WE WILL NOT ACCEPT BIDS NOT IN ENVELOPES. PLEASE INCLUDE NAME, CONTACT INFORMATION, AND AMOUNT BID.**

LANCASTER TAX ORDINANCE #26-9

An Ordinance setting tax for real property and tangible and allowing discount for the City of Lancaster, 2026.

WHEREAS, the City of Lancaster has authority to levy for tax purposes on real property, tangible property and,

WHEREAS, in order to operate the city government of Lancaster and provide for the protection, it is necessary to raise money from said real property, tangible, and

SECTION 1: NOW, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Lancaster that rates for 2026 per \$100.00 assessed value for property located within the City of Lancaster are as follows:

Real Property	.156
Personal Tangible Property	.26
Automobiles	.242
Boats	.242

SECTION 2: The proceeds from said tax shall be used in the General Fund of the City for the following:

A. Government Operations
B. Salary for Employees
C. Supplies and Utilities
D. Road Repairs
E. Capital Improvements

SECTION 3: If paid by November 1, 2026, a discount of 2% shall apply. Taxes are payable at face value if paid by December 31, 2026. If paid by January 31, 2027 a 5% penalty will be added. If paid after January 31, 2027, a 21% penalty will be levied.

First Reading: August 3, 2026

Second Reading and Passage: August 20, 2026

Published: August 27, 2026

Attested: /s/ Teresa Cheek, City Clerk /s/ Michael Gaffney, Mayor City of Lancaster

POSTED

We positively will not permit fixed hunting of any character, fishing, dogs or trespassing on our farms. Any violations will be prosecuted.

First Property Listing \$2.00 per week or \$51 per year for posted list.

Addition Property Listings \$1.00 per week or \$10.00 per year

- Michael & Dana Carrier, 2539 Kelly Ridge Road
- Danny & Judy Browning's property at end of Conn's Lane
- Carolyn Sparks property at 5252 Lexington Road
- Paul Black Farms, Hwy. 1355 (Sugar Creek Road)
- Paul And Suzanne Wells at 4129 White Lick Road, Paint Lick
- Tammy Fowler, 749 Nina Ridge Road
- Mike and Pam Fathergill, 111 Lynnwood Drive
- Chris and Joy Fathergill, 317 Richmond Street
- Mary Alice (Paul) Drew, 810 Carry Nation Road Property
- Kathy Tuggle & Paula Tudor - Jim Clark Road
- David M. and Rose Walker, 1163 Wolf Trail Road
- The Kenton Property, 795 and 719 C Valley Drive, Berea
- Grover Drew Farm, Carry Nation Road.
- Doug and Anna Graves, 319 Richmond Road, Loop 2
- The Brenda Farms, 4870 Harmons Lick Rd & Hamilton Valley Rd
- Vockery property on Polly's Bend Road
- Hugh and Amy Johnson, 6198 Lexington Road
- Dale Marie Hellard - Barbara French & William Randall Causey Farms at 2178 Hamilton Valley Road, 2636 Hamilton Valley Road And 1454 Hamilton Valley Road
- Frank and Altheia Rice, 390 Leavell Ridge Road, 372 Leavell Ridge Road and Rice Farm at Three Forks,
- Norma McFadden Property, 9700 Nicholasville Road
- Deborah Kelly property at 472 Hobert Estes Road

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