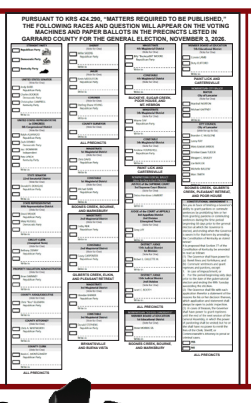


Garrard County
2026
General
Election
Sample
Ballot



A-5

Judge Executive Elleman
Proclaims October 11th - 17th



KY Extension Homemakers
Association (KEHA) Week

A-2

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Garrard County CENTRAL RECORD

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Charges Against 84-Year-Old Lancaster Man Dismissed Following Violent Police Encounter in August

By Ted Cox
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Criminal charges against an 84-year-old Lancaster man who suffered serious injuries during an August encounter with three city police officers have been dismissed with prejudice, bringing an end to the criminal case against him as the city continues proceedings involving the officers.

Ronald Maples, a Colony Road resident, had been charged with third-degree assault and resisting arrest following an Aug. 28 incident at his home that resulted in injuries including broken vertebrae, a fractured jaw, severe damage to his hand and extensive bruising.

On Monday Garrard District Judge Bill Oliver dismissed dismissed both charges with prejudice, meaning prosecutors cannot refile those charges against Maples in connection with the incident.

The dismissal represents a significant development in a case that has generated public scrutiny of the Lancaster Police Department, prompted the administrative suspension of three officers and coincided with a broader restructuring of the department announced earlier this month by Mayor Michael Gaffney.

Although the criminal proceedings against Maples have concluded, questions remain about the conduct of the officers involved and what disciplinary action, if any, may result from the city's completed internal investigation.

Maples is expected to testify at a hearing involving the officers under investigation within the next 30 days, according to his attorney, Ephraim Helton. Helton did not provide a specific hearing date or identify the nature of the proceeding.

The three officers involved in the encounter were identified in a police citation as Lt. Steve Taylor, Officer Noah Allen and Officer Austin Pingleton. Three officers were placed on administrative suspension following the incident.

See **Charges Dismissed**, A-8



Charges of assault and resisting arrest against Ronald Maples, 84, of Lancaster, were dismissed by Judge Bill Oliver in Garrard District Court on Monday morning, October 12, following an encounter with three Lancaster Police Officers at his home on August 28 that his family and attorney have called excessive force and left Maples with several injuries, included a fractured jaw and broken vertebrae. Maples is pictured above in the hospital following that August 28 encounter with officers.

Buckeye Community Rallies to Support Owen Family After Devastating House Fire Destroys Home

By Ted Cox
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A Buckeye family is facing the heartbreaking task of rebuilding their lives after a devastating house fire destroyed their home and nearly all their belongings on Sunday, October 11, prompting an outpouring of community support and an urgent fundraising effort to help them recover.

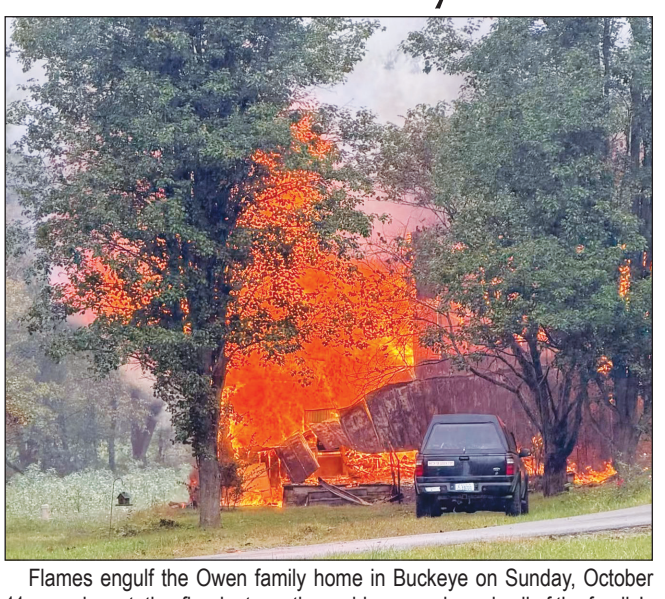
Pete, John Ann and Steve Owen lost their family home in the blaze, along with personal possessions, household furnishings, clothing and everyday necessities accumulated over the years. The destruction has left the family facing significant challenges as they begin the difficult process of replacing essential belongings and adjusting to life after the loss of their home.

In response to the tragedy, Kendra Hall has stepped forward to coordinate donations and organize an online fundraising campaign titled "Support the Owen Family After Their House Fire." The effort is calling on relatives, friends, neighbors and members of the Buckeye community and surrounding areas to come together and provide assistance during the family's time of need.

According to Hall, the Owen family's home burned to the ground, leaving them with virtually nothing.

Images taken during the fire show towering flames engulfing the structure as thick smoke rises through the surrounding

See **Buckeye Fire**, A-12



Flames engulf the Owen family home in Buckeye on Sunday, October 11, as a devastating fire destroys the residence and nearly all of the family's belongings. Community members are now rallying to support Pete, John Ann and Steve Owen as they begin the difficult process of recovering from the loss.

Garrard County Fiscal Court Declares Oct. 18th Through 23rd as Retired Teachers Appreciation Week

By Ted Cox
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Garrard County has set aside the week of Oct. 18 through Oct. 23, 2026, to honor the men and women who spent their careers in the classroom.

The Garrard County Fiscal Court approved a proclamation at its Monday, Oct. 12 meeting designating that week as Retired Teachers Appreciation Week. The proclamation calls on all Garrard Countians to join Judge-Executive Chris Elleman in observing it.

The recognition was a priority on the night's agenda.

See **Retired Teachers**, A-10



Members of Garrard County's retired teaching community pose with Judge-Executive Chris Elleman, magistrates and county officials after the Garrard County Fiscal Court proclaimed Oct. 18-23, 2026, as Retired Teachers Appreciation Week during its Monday, Oct. 12 meeting.

Jodie Meeks Reflects on Kentucky Legacy & NBA Career During "Beard and Lank Show" Appearance in Lancaster

By Ted Cox
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Former University of Kentucky basketball standout and NBA champion Jodie Meeks revisited some of the defining moments of his basketball career during a recent appearance on the Beard and Link Show at Ethan's Sports Cards & More in Lancaster this past Friday afternoon, sharing memories of his record-setting performance against Tennessee, lessons learned from basketball legends and his thoughts on potentially returning to Kentucky as a coach.

The former Wildcats guard, whose 54-point performance against Tennessee in 2009 remains one of the most cel-

See **Meeks**, A-10



Former University of Kentucky basketball standout and 2019 NBA champion Jodie Meeks shares stories from his playing career during a special live appearance on the "Beard and Link Show" in Lancaster.

Garrard County Ballot Set for Nov. 3 General Election With Federal, State and Local Races

By Ted Cox
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Garrard County voters will face a lengthy ballot in the Nov. 3 general election, choosing candidates for offices ranging from the U.S. Senate and Congress to county government, school boards and Lancaster city offices, while also deciding a proposed amendment to the Kentucky Constitution.

A published ballot notice for Garrard County shows races varying by precinct, with some contests appearing countywide and others limited to particular magisterial, school or municipal districts. Kentucky's State Board of Elections confirms

See **Election**, A-11

Kentucky Voters Face New Identification Requirements for November 3 General Election

By Ted Cox
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Kentucky voters heading to the polls for the November 3, 2026, General Election should be aware of changes to the state's voter identification requirements that took effect this summer.

The changes stem from House Bill 139, a wide-ranging elections measure enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly during its 2026 regular session. Gov. Andy Beshear vetoed the legislation on April 10, but lawmakers overrode the veto on April 14. The measure became Acts Chapter 175.

Among the changes,

See **Identification**, A-11

Kentucky Voters to Decide Constitutional Amendment Limiting Governor's Pardon Power

By Ted Cox
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Kentucky voters will consider a proposed constitutional amendment in the Nov. 3, 2026, general election that would restrict a governor's authority to grant pardons and commute criminal sentences during a defined period surrounding a gubernatorial election.

Constitutional Amendment 1 will appear statewide, meaning voters in all Kentucky precincts will have an opportunity to vote "Yes" or "No" on the proposal. The ballot language shown in the sample provided matches

See **Amendment**, A-11

10th Annual Shop with a Cop Fundraiser to Bring Night of Live Music to Lancaster Grand Theatre

By Ted Cox
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The Lancaster Police Department is preparing to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its annual Shop with a Cop program, a cherished holiday tradition that brings joy to children and families throughout Garrard County.

To help make this year's event possible, the department will host a special fundraising concert on Friday, November 6, 2026, at the Lancaster Grand Theatre.

The concert will feature three musical acts performing throughout the evening, giving

See **Shop With A Cop**, A-12

Search Warrant Leads to Methamphetamine and Drug Paraphernalia Seizure



Tristan Middleton



Haylie Neal

By Ted Cox
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Two Lancaster residents were arrested on October 8, 2026, following the execution of a search warrant at a residence on Rogers Road, where Garrard County Sheriff's Department deputies reported discovering suspected methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and materials commonly associated with the pack-

See **Search Warrant**, A-4

Two Men Arrested on Methamphetamine Charges Following Traffic Stop



Jorge Escobedo



Isodoro Escobedo

By Ted Cox
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Two men were arrested early Tuesday morning, October 6, 2026, following a traffic stop on U.S. Highway 52 near Paint Lick Elementary School after a Garrard County sheriff's deputy reportedly discovered suspected methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia inside their vehicle.

According to citations issued

See **Meth Arrest**, A-4

Garrard County Animal Shelter Nears Capacity, Issues Urgent Plea for Adopters

By Ted Cox
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The Garrard County Animal Shelter is issuing an urgent appeal to the community as overcrowding threatens its ability to accommodate additional stray dogs, leaving shelter officials scrambling to find homes and secure assistance from animal rescue organizations.

In a public statement, the shelter announced that it has reached capacity and is facing an increasingly difficult situation as animal control officers continue responding to calls involving stray animals.

According to the shelter, animal control was expected to bring in another stray dog on the morning of the announcement,

See **Animal Shelter**, A-11