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K-Count: early estimates tally 98 homeless

By Jack Thomas
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Early estimates indicate 98 people are actively experiencing homelessness in Georgetown, said Kandice Whitehouse, Director of Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention. That number, tallied at the annual K-Count event Wednesday, Feb. 25, is consistent with last year's total and up 23 people from 2024's count, Whitehouse said. The number is

expected to grow in step with Scott County's increasing population.

"I think the major increase that you've seen in the past years was us trying to figure (counting systems) out, if that makes sense," she said. "When I started doing K-Count years ago, it was really trying to track people down and make sure we're capturing folks. But now, I think our network

of nonprofits works so well together that we just streamlined a lot of it."

K-Count, a state-wide initiative across Kentucky communities, is intended to gather a point-in-time snapshot of homelessness, Whitehouse said. Wednesday's numbers were reviewed until Monday after press time to meet a submission deadline, and will go towards a state-wide con-

figuration by Kentucky Housing Corporation released during the fall.

In Scott County, K-Count looked different at this year, according to Whitehouse. Previously, groups of volunteers and staff would split into groups, spreading around the community to identify people experiencing homelessness and have them complete questionnaires. In 2026, local shelters and other partnered organizations coordinated to identify the homeless

population more swiftly.

"A lot of our counting comes out of the Gathering Place, both at the low-barrier shelter and at the Gathering Place program," she said. "That's the majority of our number, because we are very lucky that the Gathering Place has the low-barrier shelter and it is able to house a lot of folks who, in the past, were not able to be housed. We're able to capture a lot of folks there, but then partnering with Elizabeth's Village

and Mary Safe Haven to capture those folks as well."

Additionally, Whitehouse contacted local churches and emergency services to identify additional people who may be experiencing homelessness.

Some may not be satisfied with the numbers K-Count produces, Whitehouse said. The United States Department of Housing and Urban De-

See **K-COUNT**, 12

In the know

Tally for annual K-Count in Georgetown is up **23** from the 2024 number.

Local businesses weigh in on downtown parking

By Jack Thomas
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As the new Justice Center construction moves toward a projected December substantial completion date, downtown business owners are split on how the additional parking spots coming with it may affect them.

Street restaurant and one of the closest businesses to the development, may benefit from the additional spaces during dinner hours, Galvin's co-owner Stephanie Jones said.

"I feel like once the Justice building is complete, it will open up more opportunities for people to park," Jones said. "People would drive off because they can't get a parking space, or they don't want to walk far. I would definitely think those 85 spots would be helpful, and it is right behind our business. ... That would be very advantageous to us."

When Galvin's moved to downtown Georgetown in 2017, the restaurant faced parking struggles, in some instances having to pay for customers whose cars were towed, she said.

"It was awful," Jones

See **PARKING**, 12



NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY JACK THOMAS

Sunny Saturday calls for downtown jam session

Local musician Alton Greear (right) and friend Lucas Fryman (left) embrace mid-60-degree weather Saturday, Feb. 28, singing tunes on a bench along Main Street in downtown Georgetown.

Hundreds walk for 'Coldest Night of the Year'

By Jack Thomas
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Over 200 community members came together for Gathering Place Mission (GPM)'s Coldest Night of the Year, a fundraiser walk that has raised over \$14,000 as of press time, according to cnoy.com/georgetown.

Saturday, Feb. 28, was by no means the coldest night of the year; National Weather Service data shows it was the fourth warmest day

by high temperature reading in 2026, perhaps encouraging more people to turn out for the walk's largest attendance to date, according to GPM Executive Director Heather Johnson.

"I think we had more people that signed up online, but I also think we had a lot of people who did not sign up that showed up, which is just fantastic," Johnson said. "The more that we can understand a problem and the root of a



NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY JACK THOMAS

GPM Executive Director Heather Johnson (right) speaks to a large crowd prior to the "Coldest Night of the Year" walk Saturday, Feb. 28

See **CNOY**, 12

Coming up:
Property Transfers
Friday



Area deaths
Sandra Lee Lewis, 74

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