

Kentucky Horse Park invests \$25M on horse stall barns

By Jack Thomas
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LEXINGTON — As competition among equestrian event venues grows nationally, Kentucky Horse Park is responding by investing about \$25 million into new horse stall barns at its competition field, according to Horse Park President Lee Carter.

That price tag includes the cost of six new barns, each with up to 100 horse stalls, Carter said. Two of these structures were completed in 2024, another two are anticipated for a September 2026 completion, and the remaining barns will “come online in early 2027.”

“We have over 20,000 horses that come to compete at the Horse Park every year,” he said. “The barns that we continue to use, many of them, they’ve

been around since the early ‘80s. When you put that number of horses through them over that number of years, they just get a lot of wear and tear.”

The new barns join approximately 12 existing ones, Carter said. Nine older barns were demolished prior to the new developments. Their replacements are larger and feature more amenities.

“These new barns, I think, are just going to improve our competition experience,” he said. “Our old barns were 10-by-10 (feet) stalls.

These are 10-by-12 (feet) stalls. They’ve also got more amenities to them: restrooms, ceiling fans. It’s just a matter of improving that guest experience to make competitors still want to come to the park to compete.”

Adding new barns will not only replace aging infrastructure but is, in



Crews continue progress on two barn structures at Kentucky Horse Park with an expected September completion. The structures, which hold about 100 horse stalls each, will closely mirror those next to them, which were completed in 2024.

part, a response to growing competition among national equestrian competition venues, Carter said. He points back to the 2010 World Eques-

trian Games, held at Kentucky Horse Park, as a catalyst for that growth. “Nationally, you see a lot of other venues coming online that are

equestrian competition spaces,” he said. “You begin to see private enterprises come online, whereas we’re a state agency, so it’s just a dif-

ferent environment. ... Communities began to realize the value of facilities like this, or an individual saw the value of the facilities like this, so I think it’s just been a much more competitive landscape.”

“We need to stay current,” Carter added. “We’re going to be 50 years old in (2028), so a lot of our infrastructure is 50 years old. It’s time that we start reinvesting in the property.”

Along with the new barns, Kentucky Horse Park will soon invest \$5 million at the Horse Park campground, replacing its pool and adding a putt-putt golf course; \$7 million to add two entertainment pavilions for smaller-scale event hosting; and \$2.5 million toward renovations at the visitor center restaurant, plus other projects in the planning stages across the park, according to Carter.

NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY JACK THOMAS

CITY OF STAMPING GROUND



Stamping Ground board members sworn in

Several members for various board were sworn in at a recent city commission meeting in Stamping Ground.

Above: Carolyn Hundley (center), and Wendy Bothman (right) are sworn in as members of the Stamping Ground Ethics Board by City Attorney Joe Hoffman (left.)

Right: Billy Swartz (right) is sworn in as a member of the board of adjustments by Stamping Ground City Attorney Joe Hoffman (left.)



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Alert flags ‘unusually high’ volume of nonfatal ODs in area

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Kentucky Drug Overdose Alert System flagged six “suspected nonfatal drug overdose” encounters in one week between March 8 and March 13, according to a statement from Kentucky Department of Public Health Preparedness, Region 14. The total represents an “unusually high” volume of nonfatal overdose encounters for the area.

“Drug overdose alerts are generated when a county shows an unusual increase in nonfatal drug overdose-related EMS encounters in a 24-hour period,”

the statement reads. “As a result, people who use drugs in or around this area should take caution to protect themselves.

“... Always keep naloxone on hand and administer it if you suspect an overdose. Fentanyl has been found in all types of unregulated drugs, so naloxone may help regardless of the drug taken.”

Naloxone and other overdose prevention supplies can be obtained at WEDCO district health department, or at one of several Naloxone boxes across the county.

Officials recommend calling 911 if you suspect an overdose, the statement reads.

Blasting operations ongoing at Publix site

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Blasting operations have begun on the future site of Publix grocery store at the corner of McClelland Circle and Frankfort Pike, according to a public notice from developers.

Blasting is scheduled Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., the notice reads, and may occur up to twice a day “for the next several weeks.”

Sirens will sound prior to each blast and

signage is marked around the affected area, according to the notice. Exact blasting times may vary, as operations are dependent on weather and other factors.

The blasting is part of ongoing development of Elkhorn Village, which will host as many as nine outlet locations along with Publix once complete, according to developers.

For more information on the blasting, contact Ponder’s Excavating at 606-787-5258.

Red State BBQ damaged after nearby injury collision; business reopened following day

By Jack Thomas
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LEXINGTON — A two-car injury collision on Georgetown Road Friday, March 20, led to one injury and structural damage to Red State BBQ restaurant, according to Lexington Police Department (LPD) Lt. Randall Combs.

The injured individual was transported to a hospital with suspected non-life-threatening injuries, Combs said. The identities of the drivers involved were not provided. Other details of the accident remain under investigation.

Georgetown Road was temporarily closed Friday while crews worked to remove the damaged vehicles and assess structural damage, he added.

Exterior damage to Red State BBQ forced the business to temporarily close on Friday due to safety concerns, Combs said. No one inside the restaurant at the time of the wreck was injured, multiple news outlets have reported.

During lunch hours on Saturday, March 21, Red State BBQ appeared to be running business as usual, with the “open” sign on and custom-

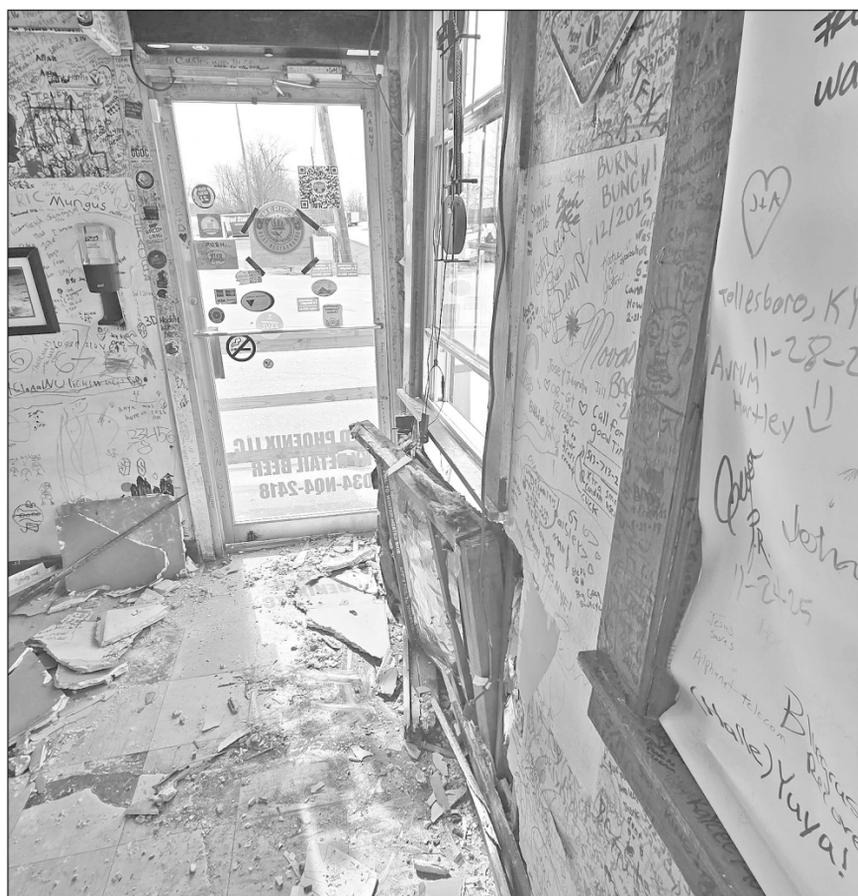


PHOTO COURTESY OF RED STATE BBQ

Following an injury collision on Georgetown Road, that impacted Red State BBQ, visible interior damage showed a wall below a window had caved in, leaving debris in the surrounding area. One day later, the restaurant reopened.

ers dining inside. One employee stated that a contractor repaired the

damaged exterior, allowing them to open just a day after the incident.

Repairs are visible on the affected exterior wall facing Georgetown Road.

Have a community event that you would like to share?

Help others to mark their calendars by e-mailing your events to news@news-graphic.com!