

## OBITUARIES

## Eleanor Jean Drake

Eleanor Jean Drake, age 91, of Leitchfield, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026 at her residence in Leitchfield, Ky.

She was born on Oct. 13, 1934 in Mt. Clemens, Mich., one of eight children, to the late Herbert

and Susan Dion Denison.

She is survived by her four children, Terry Drake (Brenda), Timmy Decker (Elizabeth), Paula Haynes (Danny), and Vicki Culbertson (Mitsuo).

Other than her parents, she was preceded in death

by her husband, Charles Franklin Drake, and her two sons, Travis Lee Drake and Eddie Decker.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026 at the Dermitt Funeral Home in Leitchfield. Her son-in-

law, Danny Haynes, will be giving the eulogy. Burial will be in the Clarkson Cemetery.

Visitation will be at the Dermitt Funeral Home from 10 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026 until time of services.

## Lois Ann Phelps

She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Walter Wayne Phelps of Leitchfield; two

daughters, Cindy Stevens (Billy) of Leitchfield and Beverly Webb (Jason) of

Nashville, Tenn.; and a son, Tim Phelps (Brenda), also of Leitchfield.

Funeral services were at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026 at the Dermitt Funeral Home in Leitchfield with Bro.

Wayne Clemons officiating. Burial was in the Shrewsbury Cemetery.

Visitation was from 4-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026 and from 9 a.m. until time of services on Thursday at the Dermitt Funeral Home.

## Sarah Ann Pence Staples

County, Ky., to the late Albert H. and Melea Spencer Pence.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Billy Staples.

Sarah is survived by

her husband, Jerry Staples; and a son, Robert Dale Staples (Sharon).

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. (CST) on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026 at Rogers Funeral Home with Sam Dick officiating.

Burial will follow in the Mt. Zion Christian Church Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. (CST) on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026 and after 9 a.m. on Sunday at the funeral home.

Sarah Ann Pence Staples, age 75 of Big Clifty, passed away Monday, Jan. 26, 2026 at Baptist Health Hardin in Elizabethtown, Ky.

She was born on March 11, 1950, in Hardin

## Melvena Manion Powell

Melvena Manion Powell, age 87 of Upton Ky., passed away Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026 at her residence.

She was born on Sept. 19, 1938, in Millerstown, Ky., to the late Sam and Lillie Williams Manion.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Alfred Powell; and a daughter, Drusilla Home.

Melvena is survived by a daughter, Karen Caumisar (Boots); one son, Neal Powell (Jean); and

four stepchildren: Regina Williams, Carita Brents (Ed), Kevin Powell, and Kenny Powell (Rhonda).

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. (CST) on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026 at Rogers Funeral Home with Bro. Terry Priddy and Bro. J.H. Manion officiating. Burial will follow in the New Lone Oak Cemetery.

Visitation was from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30, 2026 and after 9 a.m. on Saturday at the funeral home.

## Clara Lea Smithson

Clara Lea Smithson, age 82 of Leitchfield, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026 at her home in Leitchfield.

She was born on July 17, 1943, in Bakersfield, Calif., the daughter of the late Arthur Lee Davis and Clara Lea Beddo Davis.

Other than her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John

Troy Smithson; and a son-in-law, Jodie Markwell.

She is survived by her children: David Smithson (Janet) of Booneville, Ark., Stacey Day of Leitchfield, and Scott Smithson (Brandi) of Clarkson.

In keeping with her wishes, cremation was chosen under the direction of Dermitt Funeral Home.

## Committee approves concealed carry for young adults

SUBMITTED

In Kentucky, 18 to 20-year-olds can possess a firearm, but cannot obtain a concealed carry license. House Bill 312 seeks to change that.

Rep. Savannah Maddox, R-Dry Ridge, is the primary sponsor of the legislation. She was joined by primary co-sponsor Rep. Josh Bray, R-Mount Vernon, to testify on the bill during last Wednesday's House Judiciary Committee meeting.

"Right now, in Kentucky, citizens who are 18, 19, or 20 years old can legally vote. They can sign contracts. They can join the military, serve in combat, start a family, own a business and possess a firearm," Maddox said. "Yet, currently under the law, these same adults are prohibited from carrying that same firearm concealed for self-defense."

Under the proposed legislation, Kentucky State Police would be permitted to issue a provisional concealed carry firearm or other deadly weapons license to an 18- to 20-year-old.

Young adults would be required to undergo a background check and complete firearms training in order to qualify.

Maddox said HB 312 will "expand the ability of law-abiding citizens to exercise their constitutional rights to keep and bear arms."

If passed, Kentucky would join 25 other states that allow law-abiding citizens between the ages of 18 and 20 to conceal carry a firearm for self-defense purposes, she added.

"Our Second Amendment is clear: The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed, and 18- to 20-year-olds are very much apart of the people," Maddox said.

Bray told the committee he agrees with Maddox's statements on the bill.

Most of the committee



Rep. Savannah Maddox, R-Dry Ridge, advocates for House Bill 312 before the House Judiciary Committee last Wednesday, Jan. 21. The legislation would allow 18- to 20-year-olds to obtain a provisional concealed carry license.

members shared their thoughts on the bill while explaining their votes.

House Minority Caucus Chair Lindsey Burke, D-Lexington, voted "no" on HB 312 due to concerns over young adults using firearms in suicide.

"I'm not even thinking about accidents or using the firearm against someone else," she said. "I think about the young people who go to college or trade school or out into the community and they kill themselves. I don't want these kids to have an easier time getting a gun."

Rep. Nima Kulkarni, D-Louisville, also expressed concerns over young adults having access to firearms.

Maddox said the bill wouldn't change access, only the ability for individuals to carry in a concealed manner.

Several other lawmakers shared they support the bill because it requires firearm safety training.

Rep. Kimberly Poore Moser, R-Taylor Mill, said she voted in favor of the legislation because she believes anytime the general assembly considers a bill on firearms, it should include provisions on safety and training.

House Majority Whip Jason Nemes, R-Middletown, said HB 312 is "a responsible approach." He believes the bill is supported by the Kentucky Constitution and that the required firearms training would protect young people instead of leading to more harm.

"I hope (the bill) makes it through to the finish line to protect our young folks and to educate them on how to use firearms," Nemes said.

HB 312 advanced from the House Judiciary Committee by a 15-3 vote. It will now go before the full House for consideration.



Submitted

Carter was temporarily lodged in Chicago, Ill., before being picked up and transported back to Grayson County by the KSP.

## CONVICTED

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## LTADD

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members. Graves has demonstrated exceptional dedication to LTADD through his visionary leadership and active participation in numerous LTADD bodies since joining the board in 2019. His commitment is most notably seen in his enthusiastic leadership to reestablish the Hazard Mitigation Council and his roles on the Executive, Budget, Regional Transportation & Highway Safety, and Water Management Planning councils. As the 48th recipient of the annual award, he was recognized for going above and beyond his official duties to advocate for both Washington County and the broader eight-county region.

**DOROTHY M. DOLLE MEMORIAL AWARD:** Janet Hobbs, of Meade

in ensuring this offender was returned to face sentencing."

Due to the nature of the crimes and to protect the

identity of the victim, no further details will be released

at this time, the KSP said in the press release.

County, was honored for her "servant leadership" and advocacy for seniors. Hobbs has been a vital voice on LTADD's Aging Advisory Council, serving as its chair since Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and continues to serve in this capacity when no other members could fill the role, and donating countless hours to the benefit of the region's seniors. Her involvement extends from high-level governance on the council's Executive Committee and RFP Review Committee to hands-on community service, such as creating the centerpieces for the Senior Celebration and assisting with Stuff-A-Stocking for Seniors. Regarded as an invaluable asset, she is known for advocating for senior programs, spearheading bylaw

reviews, and maintaining a calm, collaborative presence that has significantly strengthened the council's mission and culture.

In his closing remarks, Daugherty emphasized that LTADD's mission of bringing civic and governmental leaders together remains the cornerstone of the region's success.

"Collaboration is our greatest strength," Daugherty said. "At LTADD, we believe that when local and regional leaders align, there's no limit to what we can achieve. Your steady support and partnership are the engines behind our success. Because of you, LTADD is more than just a service provider, it's a catalyst for a better, more connected region for all 280,000 of our citizens."



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