

Kentucky artifacts featured at the Smithsonian

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History opened its new exhibition, "From These Lands: Sharing Our Natural and Cultural Heritage" on Thursday, with Kentucky artifacts among those featured.

Stretching across 5,000 square feet, the exhibition invites visitors to celebrate and reflect on the nation's rich natural and cultural heritage through more than 600 specimens and cultural ob-

jects—many rare and never-before-exhibited—from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories.

"From These Lands" will exhibit eight objects from Kentucky, including a Mammoth Cave gypsum stalactite.

Mammoth Cave is the longest cave system on Earth, with over 405 miles of mapped caverns. The national park illustrates the power of water to shape

spectacular chambers and structures, as the slight acidity of rain and groundwater dissolves tunnels in Kentucky's limestone. At the same time, mineral-filled water forms unique geological features like the gypsum stalactite, stalagmites, straws, flowstones and evaporites as it drips and pools. The caverns' streams and water systems also support fish, crayfish, shrimp, snails and bats.

Drawing from the

museum's unparalleled collection of more than 148 million objects, the exhibition will highlight items that showcase the remarkable range of American nature, geology and cultural traditions. From ancient fossils and dazzling minerals to cherished cultural belongings and groundbreaking scientific discoveries, "From These Lands" illuminates the many connections between people, places and the natural world.

"This exhibition brings the entire country into one gallery—letting visitors encounter the extraordinary breadth of America's natural and cultural heritage," said Kirk Johnson, the Director of the National Museum of Natural History. "As the country marks its 250th anniversary, 'From These Lands' presents an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our landscapes, the depth of our history and the connec-

tions that link people and the natural world. "From These Lands" and related programming are part of "Smithsonian's Our Shared Future: 250," a Smithsonian-wide initiative supported by private philanthropy and created to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary and advance the Smithsonian vision for the next 250 years.

The exhibition will remain on view through December 2029.

Senator Rand Paul applauded for leadership and determination in passage of Border Security Package

Earlier this month Congress passed President Trump's border security package, a major legislative victory that delivers critical resources to secure the southern border, enforce immigration law, combat drug trafficking, and remove criminal illegal aliens from American communities.

The legislation, which advanced through the Senate under the leadership of Kentucky Senator Rand Paul, Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, provides billions in funding for Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and other Department of Homeland Security law enforcement operations through the remainder of President Trump's administration.

Although Kentucky does not share a border with another country, Kentuckians have experienced the consequences of failed border policies firsthand. Illegal drugs, including fentanyl, have

poured into communities across the Commonwealth, fueling addiction, devastating families, and contributing to thousands of overdose deaths. Criminal organizations and violent offenders have exploited a broken immigration system, creating challenges for law enforcement agencies and threatening public safety far beyond the southern border.

The legislation advances key priorities of President Trump's America First agenda, including stronger immigration enforcement, enhanced border security operations, and the removal of criminal illegal aliens who violate American law. It also provides resources to help federal authorities combat human trafficking and disrupt transnational criminal organizations responsible for smuggling drugs and people into the United States.

Senator Paul played a critical role in advancing the legislation through Congress, defeating dozens of Democrat amendments designed to

weaken or derail the bill and leading Senate debate through an extended voting session that ultimately secured its passage.

"This legislation delivers exactly what Americans voted for when they elected President Trump and a Republican Congress. A secure border, stronger immigration enforcement, and the resources needed to keep our communities safe. Border security is not just an issue for states along the southern border. Kentucky families have felt the consequences of an open border through the spread of fentanyl, human trafficking, and violent crime," said RPK Chairman Robert J. Benvenuti III. "Senator Rand Paul played a critical role in advancing President Trump's border security agenda and ensuring our law enforcement agencies have the tools they need to secure the border and remove criminal illegal aliens from our communities. Republicans promised action, and this legislation delivers." President Trump

publicly praised Senator Paul's efforts and later invited him to

the White House for the bill signing ceremony, where he again

recognized his contributions to advancing the legislation.

Bivens elected to serve as 2026-27 FFA State Sentinel

Cyrus Bivens was elected to serve as the 2026-2027 Kentucky FFA State Sentinel. Cyrus is the son of Ryan and Misty Bivens of Hodgenville. He is a member of the LaRue County FFA chapter where his advisors are Misty Bivens and Chris Thomas.

Cyrus was one of 23 candidates who ran for State Officer from across the Commonwealth. He completed an application and interview process on June 7-8. He was selected by a Nominating Committee made up of graduating senior FFA members and elected unanimously by the delegate body.

State FFA Officers commit to a year of service to the organization. State Officers complete extensive training following their election. They travel several thousand miles representing the State Association at lo-



Cyrus Bivens

cal and regional FFA events, agricultural meetings, and various other functions across the state. Their year of service will conclude during the 98th State FFA Convention which will be held June 8-10, 2027 in Lexington.

Kentucky FFA is an organization of over 25,000 middle and high school students enrolled in Agricultural Education courses. The organization currently

has 195 chapters in 115 counties. FFA has over 1 million members in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

For more information contact Matt Chaliff at 502-564-3472 or by email matt.chaliff@education.ky.gov

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Greensburg, Kentucky is accepting Statement of Qualifications for engineering planning, design, inspection and supervision services to be performed for the Greensburg Cast Iron/Asbestos Cement Waterline Project. Firms wishing to be considered should send a sealed envelope containing four copies of a Statement of Qualifications labeled "Greensburg Cast Iron/Asbestos Cement Waterline Replacement Project" to Martina Hadley, Lake Cumberland ADD, 2384 Lakeway Drive, PO Box 1570, Russell Springs, KY 42642.

For consideration, statements must be received by **2:00 p.m. CT on Monday, July 13, 2026**. They should be sealed and labeled "Greensburg Cast Iron/Asbestos Cement Waterline Project." The City of Greensburg reserves the right to reject any and all responses, to waive any technicalities, and to negotiate with the respondent who most nearly meets the project requirements.

For a complete package of the Request for Statement of Qualifications or any additional related questions, please contact Martina Hadley, Water & Wastewater Coordinator, Lake Cumberland Area Development District, 2384 Lakeway Drive, PO Box 1570, Russell Springs, Kentucky 42642, email address: martina@lcadd.org or by phone at 270-866-4200.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated on the basis of written materials submitted only, therefore contact with any City of Greensburg official is prohibited. Any contact with these individuals will be grounds for disqualification. After the close of evaluations, the City of Greensburg will contact the highest-ranking firm and enter negotiations. If the City of Greensburg is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement, the second ranked firm will be contacted. Once a firm has been selected, all unsuccessful candidates will be promptly notified.

The City of Greensburg will adhere to the provisions of the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 3, and Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 in the implementation of this project.

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in the implementation of this program on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex or age.

Attention is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed under the contract, Section 3, Segregated facilities, Section 109, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, E.O. 11246, the Anti-Kickback Act, and Section 504/ADA requirements.

Four (4) copies of your Statement of Qualifications should be addressed to:
Martina Hadley, Water & Wastewater Coordinator
Lake Cumberland Area Development District
2384 Lakeway Drive
PO Box 1570
Russell Springs, Kentucky 42642