Middaugh earns two Emmy Awards, bringing career total to five

April Ellis
Herald Staff

Harrodsburg native Troy Middaugh added two more Emmy Awards to his career accomplishments this summer, earning recognition for directing WLKY-TV morning newscasts covering two major Kentucky tragedies.

Middaugh received the awards during the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Emmy Awards ceremony on July 25, at the Galt House in Louisville.

The two awards bring Middaugh's career total to five Emmys, including four for newscast directing. He won his first Emmy in 1998 for editing, followed by directing awards in 2016 and 2019.

After going six years without another win, Middaugh said taking home two awards in one evening came as a surprise.

"I was surprised to win two," Middaugh said. "It's my first win in six years, then to win two in one night was something I never thought would happen."

Both of this year's awards were in the Live or Recorded Live/Newscast/Technical Director category and recognized WLKY morning newscasts produced during major breaking-news events.

One recognized the station's storm coverage, including reporting on the deadly tornado that struck London. The other honored the morning newscast following the UPS plane crash in Louisville.

Producing a live newscast requires extensive preparation and coordination among the newsroom and production staff, Middaugh said. Producers spend about six-and-a-half to seven hours assembling a show's rundown, deciding everything from which stories anchors will read to live reporter locations, video clips, graphics and studio positions.

Middaugh typically arrives about an hour before airtime to study the rundown and scripts, determine camera assignments and prepare video playback.

"I read over scripts so that I get a feel for how the producer wants to tell the stories in the newscast," he said.

Once the broadcast begins, however, there is no opportunity for a second take.

"Both of these shows aired live, meaning any mistake would have been seen by the viewer," Middaugh said.

That pressure increases during major breaking-news broadcasts. The two Emmy-winning newscasts included multiple live reporters, video elements and live interviews, requiring constant communication among those involved in putting the broadcasts on the air.

Middaugh compared directing a live television newscast to conducting an orchestra.

"You have to communicate to several people all at once and tell them not only what is next, but what is coming up, all live on air while executing the current story," he said.

While many television production jobs have become automated, Middaugh said he is fortunate to continue working with three other production staff members on each newscast. Before going on the air, he reviews important elements with the producer and production crew so everyone is prepared for what is ahead.

Middaugh said he can sometimes sense before a broadcast begins when a newscast has the potential to be particularly strong. That was the case with both broadcasts recognized this year.

The first commercial break provides one of the earliest opportunities to assess whether those instincts were correct.

"You can take a short break and reflect and see if your instincts were right," he said.

Middaugh serves as production manager at WLKY-TV, where he oversees a staff of 19. Despite the responsibilities that come with managing a department, directing remains his favorite part of the job.

He has spent 33 years in broadcasting and 27 of those years directing.

James DeCamp Photo

Harrodsburg native Troy Middaugh earned two more Emmy Awards for directing live news coverage with WLKY-TV.

"I love doing live TV," Middaugh said. "I'm proud of my five Emmy Awards. I'm proud that I have what I think is the greatest job, and I get to work with people who bring 100% every day."

The television industry Middaugh works in today bears little resemblance to the one he entered more than three decades ago. Videotapes have given way to digital video files, while equipment that once required trucks and crews in the field can increasingly be replaced by compact technology using cellular networks.

Automation has also transformed studio production. Middaugh began his career operating studio cameras, while today one person can operate four automated cameras in WLKY's studio.

Despite those technological changes, Middaugh said opportunities remain for young people interested in media careers — both inside and outside traditional television.

He regularly speaks with high school and college students about the industry and encourages them to understand both its demands and possibilities.

"It can be a lot of work, but it can also be a lot of fun," Middaugh said. "The media industry is always evolving."

He cautions aspiring media professionals that television operates around the clock, which can mean working weekends and holidays. At the same time, the skills learned in television production can translate into independent production companies, advertising agencies and businesses with their own social media operations.

Middaugh also encourages students to pursue internships and build relationships with professionals already working in the industry.

For Middaugh, this year's two Emmy wins are not only additions to a growing collection of awards but recognition from others in the television industry of the work that goes into producing live news.

"It means that others outside of the station see my passion for what I do," he said. "I'm grateful not only to have won, but to be a part of the professionals at WLKY-TV."

How much hay do your horses need?

Extension Notes

Linda McClanahan
Mercer County
Cooperative Extension
Agent for Agriculture

Forage is the foundation of a horse's diet, and for many horse owners, that means hay. Estimating hay needs ahead of time can help you avoid running short, manage costs and make better use of available storage space.

As a general starting point, most mature horses will eat about 2-2.5% of their body weight in forage each day. For many horse owners, that works out to roughly 20 pounds of hay per horse per day, though actual pounds of hay can vary depending on the horse's size, age, workload, body condition and the quality of the hay.

To make a simple estimate, multiply the number of horses you feed by the pounds of hay each horse will need per day. Then multiply that number by the total days you expect to feed hay.

For example, three horses eating about 20 pounds of hay per day would need about 60 pounds of hay daily. If hay is fed for 365 days, that equals 21,900 pounds of hay for the year.

It is also important to account for hay lost during storage or feeding. A good general estimate is to add about 10% to your total hay needs. In the example above, that would add 2,190 pounds, bringing the total hay inventory needed to about 24,090 pounds.

Once you have a total estimate, divide that number by the average weight of your bales. If bales weigh 50 pounds each, 24,090 pounds of hay would equal about 482 bales. If bales weigh 40 pounds each, the same amount of hay would equal about 603 bales.

These numbers are only estimates. Hay quality, storage conditions, feeding methods and the nutritional needs of individual horses can all affect how much hay you need. A forage analysis can help take some of the guesswork out of feeding by showing what nutrients your hay provides. Because hay can vary from one cutting or supplier to the next, testing can help horse owners determine whether their hay meets their horses' needs or if additional feed or supplementa-

See How 4B

THE MERCER COUNTY JOINT BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS

The public will take notice that a **Public Hearing** has been scheduled at the request of the following:

26-12 – Terrell Royalty is requesting a Variance of 14' from 25' to 11' on the front yard setback. The property is located at 291 Longview St in Harrodsburg, KY. The zoning map indicates the property is zoned R-2 (Residential).

26-13 – WEH Investments LLC is requesting a Variance of 25' from 80' to 55' on the front yard setback and a 12' Variance from 15' to 3' on the detached structure setback. The property is located at 544 McCroskey Pike in Mercer County, KY. The zoning map indicates the property is zoned A-1 (Agriculture).

26-14 – Kelly Caton is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to operate a home occupation. The property is located at 204 Lee Oak Circle in Mercer County, KY. The zoning map indicates the property is zoned R-1 (Residential).

26-15 – SN Cabins LLC is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to operate a short-term rental. The property is located at 2406 Louisville Rd in Mercer County, KY. The zoning map indicated the property is zoned A-1 (Agriculture).

This public hearing has been scheduled for **Friday, August 28th, 2026** in the Harrodsburg City Commissioners meeting room located at 208 S. Main St. (2nd Floor) in Harrodsburg, KY at **8:15AM EST/7:15AM CST.** If you have any questions or comments, or would like to view proposed plans, please contact the Planning & Zoning Office at (859) 734-6066 or you may visit the Planning & Zoning Office at 109 Short St. Harrodsburg, KY.

Bobby Upchurch
Chairman

Reimagined annual tasting party celebrates the recipes, flavors and stories of Mercer County

The Harrodsburg Historical Society invites the community to gather around the table for A Taste of Mercer County: Recipes & Stories from Our Tables, a reimagining of the Society's beloved Tasting Party, on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026, from noon to 2 p.m. at Morgan Row, 220 S. Chiles St. in Harrodsburg.

This special community gathering will celebrate the family recipes, food traditions and memories that have been passed down through generations and continue to bring Mercer County families together around the table.

Community members are invited to submit a treasured family recipe along with the story behind it. Perhaps it is a grandmother's famous pie, a dish served at every family reunion, an old canning recipe, a holiday favorite or simply something that tastes like home. The Historical Society wants to preserve not only the recipes themselves, but also the people, occasions and memories that make them meaningful.

Those who are able are also encouraged to prepare their submitted recipe and bring the dish to the event for others to sample, although bringing a dish is not required to participate.

Recipes may be submitted online through the Harrodsburg Historical Society's website or by completing a printed Recipe Registration Form available at Morgan Row. Completed paper forms may also be

Photo Submitted

The Harrodsburg Historical Society will host their annual tasting party on Saturday, Sept. 12, from noon until 2 p.m.

returned to Morgan Row.

Recipes received by Sunday, Aug. 23, will be considered for inclusion in the Society's special 2026 Heritage Recipe Collection, which will preserve a sampling of Mercer County's culinary traditions and the stories behind them for future generations.

Throughout the afternoon, guests will have an opportunity to sample dishes, exchange recipes and hear community members share some of the memories and family stories connected to the foods they have contributed.

"A Taste of Mercer County is about more than food—it's about the memories, people and traditions connected to the recipes we love," said Harrodsburg Historical Society President Ian Nagy. "So much of our history has happened around the table. We hope people throughout the community will join us, share a recipe or dish, and help us preserve this delicious part of Mercer County's heritage."

Admission is free, but advance tickets are required due to limited seating. Tickets may be reserved through the Harrodsburg Historical Society's website at harrodsburghistorical.org.

Guests do not need to submit a recipe or bring a dish to attend. Everyone is invited to come enjoy the food, stories and fellowship.

Donations will also be accepted during the event to help support another cherished Historical Society tradition—the upcoming Christmas Tea Room.

Share a recipe. Share a dish. Share a story.

About the Harrodsburg Historical Society

The Harrodsburg Historical Society works to preserve, celebrate and share the people, places, stories and traditions that make up the rich history of Harrodsburg and Mercer County.

Mercer County
AGRICULTURE FIELD DAY
-In Memory Of Dale Dobson-

Thursday, September 3

Thompson Family Farms
311 Ed Gell Lane, Salvisa

We invite all farmers (full, part time & hobby), agriculture businesses, and anyone with an interest in agricultural production to come out and take part in this educational field day.
Enjoy some shade, cool drinks, & good food for all. In addition, several agricultural businesses will have displays in the vendor area.
*Rain Date – September 21

5:00 PM—Registration begins
5:00 PM—Visit Vendor Area
5:30 PM—Program and Tour begin

Free sponsored meal prepared by Mercer County Cattlemen's Association

Cooperative Extension Service

This will meet the CAIP educational requirement.

SPEAKERS
Farm Layout/ Grazing System Design
Chrissy Thompson, Thompson Family Farms Owner
Grazers Panel
Brooks Peavler, Eli Thompson, Nathan Hahn
Economics Of Farming
Aaron Helmich

Please call 859-734-4378 to register by September 1st. It is important that we know how many are planning to attend.

For more information, contact:
Mercer County Farm Bureau 859-734-4341
Mercer Co Conservation District 859-734-4326
Mercer Co Extension Service 859-734-4378

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.