JESSAMINE

Continued from 1A

American Revolution's Trabue Chapter and Jessamine County Fiscal Court.

The county also scheduled a Liberty Tree ceremony April 26 at High Bridge Park in Wilmore. Local partners included the Jessamine County Celebrates America 250 Committee, while the statewide effort brought together the Kentucky Historical Society, Kentucky DAR and Kentucky Division of Forestry. The forestry division donated 120 trees for the statewide project.

June's anniversary schedule included opportunities for residents to contribute artwork. Paint the Town, scheduled June 11 at the Blue Building in City/County Park, invited artists of all ages and skill levels to create downtown banners around an "Americana" theme.

Participants could choose to paint banners for Nicholasville or Wilmore. The county's announcement linked the annual banner program to America 250 through a partnership with its anniversary committee.

Also beginning June 11, Wilmore's three-day Salute to Service centered on veterans and first responders at the Thomson-Hood Veterans Center.

The opening escort brought traveling military memorials from Southland Christian Church through downtown Nicholasville and Wilmore to the veterans center. Displays included the Vietnam Wall, Cost of Freedom Memorial and Global War on Terror Memorial.

Nicholasville police assisted with the escort and supplied an honor guard for the first responders' recognition ceremony. The department also brought its Copsicle vehicle to distribute free frozen treats.

"250 veterans were recognized and honored during the festivities," the department reported in its account of the event.

The gathering connected four anniversaries: America's 250th, Wilmore's 150th, the veterans center's 35th and 25 years since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Camp Nelson National Monument's June 20 Freedom Day Festival added another chapter of local history to the anniversary calendar.

The National Park Service's program commemorated an Independence Day celebration organized at Camp Nelson by African American soldiers and refugees in 1865. According to the agency, that gathering included music, food, games and military demonstrations.

The 2026 festival schedule combined historical interpretation with performances by the Marshall Law Band and West Louisville Performing Arts Academy. It also listed guided programs, living history demonstrations, children's activities and opportunities to visit the museum and reconstructed barracks.

Later in June, the county scheduled a Revolutionary War Memorial rededication for June 28 at the Jessamine County Courthouse. The announcement identified the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution among the partners honoring Revolutionary War soldiers connected to the county.

The courthouse was also the location listed for a July 2 bell-ringing ceremony commemorating the Continental Congress' vote for independence.

A June 24 county announcement said 13 people had been selected to ring bells, symbolizing the original colonies. The ceremony was scheduled in the courthouse's circuit courtroom.

Two days later, Wilmore's Festival of the Fourth drew what Mayor Harold Rainwater described as its largest parade crowd since the celebration began 38 years ago, according to The Jessamine Journal's July 7 coverage.

The July 4 festivities marked both the nation's anniversary and Wilmore's 150th. The parade was followed by a patriotic concert by the Jessamine County Community Band at Asbury University's Hughes Auditorium.

Rainwater estimated nearly 1,000 people attended the concert. Asbury Theological Seminary hosted a free ice cream reception afterward.

"We were very pleased," Rainwater said.

He credited the two Asbury institutions for their participation, describing their partnership with the city as "town and gown at its best."

The Jessamine County Public Library extended the anniversary observance to readers July 10 with an episode of its "Books & Bites" podcast devoted to American history.

The episode accompanied a history prompt in the library's summer reading challenge. Recommendations included nonfiction about people and events often overlooked in historical accounts, along with a novel for younger readers.

The county's fall schedule returned to Kentucky history through Kent Masterson Brown's "Daniel Boone and the Opening of the American West."

County announcements listed screenings for Nov. 7 and 8 at the KCAL Theater, 109 S. Main St. in Nicholasville. Brown wrote and directed the film.

Organizers presented the screenings as preparation for the county's final America 250 celebration, listing Brown as the featured speaker for a Nov. 15 program at East Jessamine High School.

KCAL

Continued from 1A

That is a count covering a school year, rather than a count of children without shelter on a particular night. Under the federal education definition, homelessness includes more than living outdoors or in a shelter.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act covers children who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. That can include families sharing housing because of a loss of housing or economic hardship, or staying in motels because adequate alternatives are unavailable.

Children living in cars, campgrounds or other places not intended as regular sleeping accommodations can also qualify, depending on their circumstances, according to the National Center for Homeless Education.

The law provides educational protections intended to keep housing instability from interrupting a child's schooling. Eligible students must be enrolled immediately even when records normally required for enrollment are unavailable.

Depending on the student's best interests, children may remain in their school of origin or enroll in the school serving the area where they are staying. Transportation to the school of origin must be provided when required under the law and requested by a parent, guardian or the appropriate liaison.

Kentucky's education department lists tutoring, clothing, mentoring, homework assistance and transportation among allowable uses of McKinney-Vento funds. Other eligible uses include obtaining records and connecting children with medical, dental and mental health services.

Districts also have responsibilities that go beyond enrollment. Federal guidance says eligible children must be able to attend classes and participate fully in school activities.

The state notes that requirements protecting students experiencing homelessness apply to every school district, regardless of whether it receives a McKinney-Vento grant.

Families seeking information about eligibility or assistance can contact their school district's homeless education coordinator. Kentucky's education department maintains a directory of district coordinators.

For information about the Dec. 4 showcase, contact KCAL Old Time Radio Troupe at 859-885-5363. Organizers list the event on KCAL's website, kcalotr.com.

WILMORE

Continued from 1A

what an average night at WFD can bring," the department stated.

The department also praised the council members for asking questions and taking an active interest in the work of local emergency responders.

"We value your interest, your support, and your commitment to understanding the work that goes into keeping Wilmore safe," the department stated.



NICHOLASVILLE

Continued from 1A

Nicholasville's existing stations are at 510 N. Main St., 1022 S. Main St., 1031 Elizabeth St. and 785 E. Brannon Road. The department's administrative office is at the East Brannon Road station, while its training center is at 201 E. Brown St., according to the city's station directory.

The department's published mission extends beyond responding to fires. Its responsibilities include hazardous-materials response, rescuing people from accidents, fire prevention and public education.

Those duties include working with other agencies when an incident requires capabilities beyond the department's own resources. The department also identifies reducing deaths and property losses through prevention and education as part of its work.

The city's November progress report discussed the station alongside other public projects, including its community recreation center and municipal building. The report described the Wilmore Road station as a project intended to serve Nicholasville's growing community.

The construction-management solicitation is listed as request for qualifications 2026-324 on the city's purchasing page. It seeks firms qualified to handle both the planning work that precedes construction and the management of the construction phase.

Qualification information is available through the city's website or at City Hall, 517 N. Main St. The city's purchasing notice directs project questions to Doug Blackford, director of general government, at 859-885-1121.

Firms must submit their qualifications by the Nov. 30 deadline. The published request says submissions received after the deadline will not be accepted.