

# Youth-led retail survey promotes tobacco prevention in Hodgenville

BY VICTORIA COX  
EDITOR

A retail survey project aimed at reducing youth access to tobacco and nicotine products, while giving area students valuable real-world experience in community engagement and leadership, was recently conducted in Hodgenville. Showing strong compliance at local businesses, the survey also highlighted the value of youth voice in prevention efforts.

The project was completed using funding from the Kentucky Retail Survey Mini-Grant through a collaborative partnership between the Hodgenville Police Department, Hodgenville Police Cadet Program, Lincoln Trail District Health Department (LTDHD) and Livin' Well LaRue. The project was also supported through a Kentucky Retail Survey Mini-Grant, with CommuniCare Regional Prevention Center providing administrative support.

One of the primary goals of the project was to reduce retail access to tobacco and nicotine products for individuals under the age of 21. In addition to conducting retail scans, a key objective was to give youth the opportunity to learn and practice new skills, including communication, observation, leadership and community engagement.

Jada Lancaster, HPD Cadet Captain, was one of many local students who led five retail scans in Hodgenville. Gaining hands-on experience while helping reinforce retailer compliance with Tobacco 21 laws, which were passed in

2019, the youth were tasked with filling out the survey. Questions included determining whether the business's had tobacco and nicotine products in reach of children; if product advertisements were using bright colors or cartoon characters to appeal to children; and if any products were displayed as menthol. They also ensured the retailers had signage stating that anyone under the age of 21 cannot buy tobacco or nicotine products and that the business does ID customers.

According to Twyla Crain, Harm Reduction Specialist at LTDHD, the surveys showed strong compliance among participating retailers:

- 100% of stores had tools in place to verify the legal age of purchase
- 100% of stores displayed WE ID / WE CARD signage at store entrances
- All clerks interviewed reported receiving training on carding procedures

Although these statistics do display how local businesses are helping to ensure youth do not have access to tobacco and nicotine products, Lancaster said the experience unveiled some negatives to her.

"Everything is targeted towards children; the bright colors, the cartoon characters, everything looks good," she said. "[I also realized] that they truly need to keep everything behind the counter. There have been some cases in other states where kids have just taken [tobacco and nicotine products] and left."

The experience also reinforced to her the importance of ensuring youth

do not have access to these products.

"Tobacco and vapes are very dangerous – a lot of people don't understand how dangerous they are," she said. "They can give you black lungs, collapse your lungs, shortness of breath, everything. And, for kids, starting young will ultimately hit them in the long run."

Lancaster previously participated in a nursing class activity that exhibited the dangers of smoking she mentioned. This was achieved by displayed two sets of pig lungs – one of a "non-smoker," which were pink, healthy and expanded as normal, and one of a "smoker," which were black, had gunk inside and wouldn't expand completely. The "smoker" lungs also had tumors.

Beyond collecting data, the project highlighted the value of youth voice in prevention efforts. Youth participants often noticed details that adults who conduct these surveys routinely may overlook, such as Lancaster noting that some rolling papers were flavored. Crain said this brought a fresh perspective that strengthened the overall quality of the project. The effort also provided continued education to retailers and community members about Tobacco 21 laws, reinforcing the importance of preventing youth access to age-restricted products.

"I feel like doing the survey is good to let people know what's going on and what they can do to make [prevention efforts] better," Lancaster said.

# Convention of Abraham Lincoln Presenters coming to Hodgenville

BY VICTORIA COX  
EDITOR

More than 40 Abraham Lincoln impersonators will soon flock to Bardstown for the annual Association of Lincoln Presenters convention. The group will tour Hodgenville and its surrounding area on Saturday, April 11, and the public is invited to attend.

An organization of men and women dedicated to bringing Abraham and Mary Lincoln to life, the ALP hosts a convention every year near Lincoln's assassination date in a place where the 16th President either lived, worked or had some other connection to. The 30th annual conference will be a four-day event from April 9 to April 12 and will include visits to many local significant Lincoln historical venues.

The 2026 conference host, Larry Elliott, is a long-time Lincoln presenter and a native of LaRue County. He also has a direct link to Lincoln, as his great-great-grandmother, Mary Brooks LaRue, was the midwife who delivered the eventual President.

Event activities for Friday, April 10 include tours at the Bardstown Civil War Museum, My Old Kentucky Home and Oscar Getz Whiskey History Museum and lunch at Old Talbott Tavern, where the Lincoln family once stayed as young Abe witnessed a land dispute trial held across the street at the courthouse. The day will conclude with "The



Submitted photo

Many Faces of Lincoln," where more than 40 Lincoln interpreters will gather for an unforgettable evening of dining, photo opportunities, live performances and a silent auction. Tickets for the event are available for purchase on Eventbrite.

The presenters will begin Saturday, April 11 in Hodgenville with a tour at the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park. They will also tour The Lincoln Museum, hear a presentation titled "Ladies in Lincoln's Life" from Iris LaRue and visit the Knob Creek Boyhood Home. The presenters will then head to the Kentucky Railway Museum for a train ride and lunch before returning to their hotel in Bardstown.

Elliott said the public is more than welcome to join the presenters on their adventures on Saturday. He

noted that all of the day's activities, with the exception of the train ride and lunch, are free and that individuals are also able to ride along with the presenters throughout the day on their bus.

The convention will end on Sunday, April 12 with a worship service. This year's sponsors of the four-day event include Lincoln National Bank, Bardstown Tourism, LaRue County Fiscal Court and The Lincoln Museum.

More information about the Association of Lincoln Presenters and its upcoming convention can be found at [lincolnpresenters.com](http://lincolnpresenters.com). Elliott will also provide anyone interested with a list of Lincoln activities; he can be contacted at 502-599-6830 or [larrylikelincoln@gmail.com](mailto:larrylikelincoln@gmail.com).

# Hornback is LaRue's New County Fair Pageant Director

BY ALLISON SHEPHERD  
PUBLISHER

The LaRue County Fair started in 1907 and is one of the longest-running fairs.

The very first Miss LaRue County Fair, Bunny Wells, went to the state that year to win the state title and bring it back to Hodgenville.

Even though the day of fair rides might be in the past, Chandra Hornback has



Chandra Hornback

taken on the role of LaRue County Fair Pageant Director with a goal of keeping the pageant tradition alive and thriving.

The last state title representing the LaRue County Fair was in 1973, and that title belongs to Faye Massie.

In her first year, Hornback is bringing some changes that will affect contestants on a local level. "I am bringing back a local title. This title can only be won by someone

who lives in the community. I've also split up the older divisions, so we will now have a Ms. and a Mrs. Winner. In addition, a baby miss and toddler miss division have been added."

When Hornback speaks of pageantry, she says, "Everyone sees the pretty dresses, crowns, and sashes, but what they don't see is all the community service behind that. I want people to see beyond the shiny things and recognize the impact these ladies can make in the community. From

gathering donations for drives, making appearances at businesses, or simply being a role model for others. The possibilities of giving are endless."

Hornback, a 36 years old Registered Nurse at the Louisville Tuberculosis Clinic, loves all things pageantry, competing, coaching, and directing. She enjoys sewing and doing custom rhinestone work. She has competed in pageants since she was six months old, and has competed in the county fair circuit every year she was eligible.

Hornback has held many local and state titles, as well as a national title., placing third runner-up at this past year's Ms. Kentucky County Fair and was the recipient of the first-ever philanthropy award for donating 2,055 items to the Ronald McDonald House, proving that pageantry is so much more than a crown.

In traditional pageant style, her fun fact is that her father was a graduate of LaRue County Schools in 1990.

Hornback is asking the public to rally together in

the coming months to support this new burst of energy for the LaRue County Fair. She says, "It takes support from the community to build up a pageant, and I am asking for that support and help for these amazing, brave girls and women who will grace our stage."

LaRue County's pageants will be held on July 25 at the LaRue County High School auditorium. For more information contact Hornback at 270-200-3400 or [laruecountypageants@yahoo.com](mailto:laruecountypageants@yahoo.com).

# Tips for a safe and fun spring break road trip

Arriving months after the holiday season and right around the end of winter, spring break comes at the perfect time for families and students. A winter spent largely indoors can excite anyone about the prospect of soaking up some sun from the comforts of a sandy beach, and millions will do whatever it takes to make such a trip possible.

Many spring breakers may fly to their destination, but that can be costly for families paying for multiple flights. Indeed, spring break can be one of the more costly times to travel by air, as it's considered a peak travel period. Families who want to get away

but don't want to spend thousands of dollars on flights alone can take to the road and drive to their destinations. If a road trip is in the cards, families can consider these strategies to ensure a safe and fun excursion:

- Have your vehicle fully serviced before your trip. Winter can be hard on a vehicle, particularly when a car is parked outside in locations where harsh weather is the standard between December and March. A full checkup that tops off fluids, tests the brakes (and replaces them, if necessary), inflates the tires (and again, replaces them, if necessary), tests the battery,

and checks headlights and wiper blades to ensure they're operating at peak capacity can prepare a vehicle for the journey to your spring break destination.

- Make some pit stops along the way. If it's an especially long trip to your destination, extend your travels by a day or two and make an extra stop along your way to your destination and on your return home. Find a fun activity along the way, such as a trip to a local indoor water park or a must-see hiking spot, so everyone can spend a day moving around before getting back in the car.
- Don't be a motorized martyr.

When your ultimate destination is a warm, sun-soaked beach, it can be tempting to make the trip in a single day. But fatigued drivers are dangerous drivers, so it's best to build in some time to take a break and even share driving duty with another licensed driver. Moms and dads can switch halfway through the trip. If you already know the trip will take multiple days on the road, then stop driving no later than sundown to ensure you and your fellow drivers get a good night's rest.

- Line up some in-vehicle entertainment. A long road trip with young children will require

some in-vehicle entertainment. Load up a tablet with movies to keep the kids occupied during the drive but also arrange for some non-device game play as well. A book of puzzles, a family sing-along, a round or two of I spy, the license plate game, and even some kid-friendly trivia can provide some fun distractions on the way to your destination.

The cost of air travel can be prohibitive for families looking to get away this spring break. Some simple strategies can make road trips a safe, fun and cost-effective means to getting away when school lets out this spring.

# Notable American women who shaped the United States

Women born in the United States have had a profound impact on the nation's history. Women have led social revolutions, pioneered scientific discoveries and broken various glass ceilings. Here's a look at a handful of noteworthy women who have helped to shape the United States.

## SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Anthony was a central figure in the women's suffrage movement, traveling the country giving speeches and organizing for the right to vote. Although Anthony died before the Nineteenth Amendment was passed in 1920, it is often referred to as the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment."

## KATHERINE JOHNSON

Johnson's calculations of orbital mechanics were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. crewed space flights. A brilliant mathematician at NASA, Johnson's work was essential for the Apollo 11 mission, which helped to land the first humans on the moon.

## SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

When she was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, O'Connor became the first woman Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. O'Connor served for 24 years and frequently became the swing vote on many noteworthy cases.

## ROSA PARKS

When she refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus in 1955, Parks became a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement. Her quiet defiance sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott and served as a pivotal moment that helped end legal segregation in the U.S.

## ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Roosevelt was one of the most active First Ladies in history. She redefined the role by becoming a diplomat, politician and activist in her own right. Roosevelt became the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights and was a champion of civil rights.

## SERENA WILLIAMS

Widely considered one of the greatest athletes of all time, Williams won 23 Grand Slam singles tennis titles. Apart from her work on the tennis courts, Williams is a prominent advocate for maternal health and a successful venture capitalist.

## ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

Ocasio-Cortez, widely referred to as "AOC," is the youngest woman ever to serve in the U.S. Congress. She was elected at age 29 and has become a leading voice for a new generation of progressives. She has cham-

pioned issues like climate change and economic inequality.

The United States has been transformed by key women throughout the nation's history.

LAND OF LINCOLN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
April 2026 Agenda BOA  
Notice of Public Hearing  
Monday, March 30th, 2026  
6:00 p.m.  
209 West High St., Hodgenville, Ky.

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes
- Business
  - Var 26-01) Susan Wheeler is requesting a sideline setback variance at 323 S. Greensburg St.
  - Var 26-02) Emma Bell is requesting a variance for lot size for property located at 704 Ferrill Hill Rd.
- Administrative
- Adjournment

• GUN SHOW •  
Guns, Knives & Ammo.  
Buy, Sell, Trade or Loan.  
Cave Country Conference Center  
Cave City Kentucky  
Saturday, March 28th  
9am-5pm CST  
Sunday March 29th  
9am-4pm CST  
2-Day Admission \$10  
\$5.00 Sunday only