

# Straub

From page 1A

tem,” she explained. She then reiterated that the Growing Minds Program is made possible by using grant funding through International Paper, which supports agricultural literacy and interactive classroom learning opportunities. “As the program year comes to a close, there is one lesson remaining, marking the end of a series of monthly activities designed to connect students with agriculture and natural resources,” Bailey concluded.



Submitted by Kimberly Bailey  
**Busy bees were all around, helping the Growing Minds: Cultivating Agricultural Literacy Program.**

# Mother's Day spending expected to reach record \$38 billion, supporting Kentucky families and local economies

Submitted by Steve McClain  
 The Kentucky Retail Federation

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 4, 2026) – Mother's Day spending is projected to reach a record \$38 billion this year, highlighting not only the importance of celebrating loved ones, but also the meaningful impact those purchases have on communities across Kentucky, according to new data from the National Retail Federation and Prosper Insights & Analytics. The 2026 total surpasses last year's \$34.1 billion and exceeds the previous record of \$35.7 billion set in 2023. Consumers are expected to spend an average of \$284.25 per person, also a new high. “Mother's Day is more than a holiday — it's a moment that brings families together and drives meaningful support for businesses across Kentucky,” said Tod Griffin, President of the Kentucky Retail Federation. “From florists and retailers to restaurants and service providers, this is an important time for businesses in communities of every size.” According to the survey, 84% of U.S. adults

plan to celebrate Mother's Day. More than half (54%) will shop for their mother or stepmother, followed by a spouse (22%) or daughter (13%). Consumers are expected to shop across multiple channels, with online and department stores tied as the top destinations (33% each), followed by specialty retailers (29%) and discount stores (26%). “In Kentucky, that spending doesn't happen in just one place,” Griffin said. “Families may shop online for convenience, but they're also visiting local stores, ordering from nearby florists, and dining in their communities. That mix of spending is what keeps dollars circulating locally and supports jobs across the Commonwealth.” Traditional gifts remain popular, with 75% of consumers planning to purchase flowers and 74% buying greeting cards. Experiences continue to grow in importance, with 63% planning outings such as brunch or dinner, and a record one-third opting for experiential gifts like concerts or sporting events.

Those experiences are especially impactful at the local level, where restaurants and entertainment venues see increased traffic tied to holiday celebrations. Jewelry is expected to lead total spending at \$7.5 billion, followed by special outings at \$6.4 billion and electronics at \$4.4 billion — marking the first time electronics spending has surpassed \$4 billion for the holiday. Flowers are projected to reach \$3.2 billion, while greeting cards will total \$1.3 billion. Consumers are also placing greater emphasis on meaningful giving, with 46% prioritizing unique gifts and 39% focused on creating special memories. “That focus on thoughtful, meaningful gifts plays directly into the strengths of Kentucky businesses,” Griffin added. “Whether it's a locally sourced product, a shared meal, or a personal experience, these purchases help create lasting memories while supporting the communities we call home.” The survey of 7,877 U.S. adults was conducted April 1–8 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 1.1 percentage points.

# Brown

From page 1A

- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, CLARK/HAMMERSVILLE  
**Republican**  
 Becky Wallace: 134  
 Angela Marlow: 27
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, CLARK TOWNSHIP WEST  
**Republican**  
 Timothy P. O'Hara: 151
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, EAGLE TOWNSHIP  
**Republican**  
 Bob Hare: 152
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
**Republican**  
 Joe Kovach: 223
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MOUNT ORAB NORTH  
**Republican**  
 Mark Potts: 108
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MOUNT ORAB SOUTH  
**Republican**  
 Jimmie D. Hile: 198
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MOUNT ORAB WEST  
**Republican**  
 Greg Lang: 120
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, GREEN TOWNSHIP NORTH  
**Republican**  
 Blaine Pinkerton: 80
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, GREEN TOWNSHIP SOUTH  
**Republican**  
 Sandra L. Reeder: 105
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ABERDEEN VILLAGE  
**Republican**  
 Bradley Cannon: 67
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP  
**Republican**  
 Beckie Tucker: 55
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, JACKSON TOWNSHIP  
**Republican**  
 Sarah Beath: 132  
 Betty Jo Ratliff: 130
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, JEFFERSON/RUSSELLVILLE  
**Republican**  
 Janet Polley Ward: 197
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, LEWIS TOWNSHIP NORTH  
**Republican**  
 Nelson Otto: 195
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, LEWIS/HIGGINSPOUR  
**Republican**  
 Scott E. Null: 62
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PERRY TOWNSHIP-VILLAGE  
**Republican**  
 April L. Houk: 125
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PERRY TOWNSHIP SOUTH  
**Republican**  
 Rose McCafferty: 138
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PERRY TOWNSHIP WEST  
**Republican**  
 Matthew L. Brinkman: 103
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PERRY/LAKE LORELEI  
**Republican**  
 Wayne Lowery: 142
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PIKE TOWNSHIP EAST  
**Republican**  
 Amy L. Sloas: 124
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PIKE TOWNSHIP WEST  
**Republican**  
 Richard Dyer: 107
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, GEORGE-

- TOWN EAST  
**Republican**  
 Mike D. Mays: 129
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, GEORGETOWN NORTH  
**Republican**  
 Nick Owens: 171
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, GEORGETOWN SOUTHWEST  
**Republican**  
 Jonathan Linkous: 137
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PLEASANT TOWNSHIP  
**Republican**  
 Reggie McKenzie: 224
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SCOTT TOWNSHIP  
**Republican**  
 Amber Morrison: 169
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, STERLING TOWNSHIP NORTH  
**Republican**  
 Tony J. Waits: 157
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, STERLING TOWNSHIP SOUTH  
**Republican**  
 Janet Suffridge: 169
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, RIPLEY VILLAGE  
**Republican**  
 Howard W. McClain, Jr.: 112
- MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, UNION TOWNSHIP  
**Republican**  
 Roxanne E. Malone: 153
- PROPOSED TAX LEVY - ADDITIONAL - BROWN COUNTY - BOARDS OF DD - 1.5 MILLS/FIVE YEARS  
 Against the tax levy: 3,871  
 For the tax levy: 3,025
- PROPOSED TAX LEVY - ADDITIONAL - GREEN TOWNSHIP UNICORP.AREA - FIRE - ONE MILL/FIVE YEARS  
 Against the tax levy: 149  
 For the tax levy: 125

# Looking back to May 7, 2020

Written by Mary Ann Kearns

The following information was entered into the May 7, 2020, edition of

The Ledger Independent: — **Maysville moving toward Phase I**  
 Will Maysville have a new “look,” a new “vibe”

when the city begins to reopen following the COVID-19 pandemic? Maysville City Manager Matt Wallingford addressed those questions Tuesday during a Facebook live session from city hall. “One thing we can all count on right now that is for certain, at least in

the next month, maybe the next year, in uncertainty with this pandemic we are all dealing with,” Wallingford said. Gov. Andy Beshear recently announced the state's movement into Phase I of reopening. On May 11, Kentucky will begin Phase 1 of Healthy at Work. The first step of Phase 1 will include the reopening of some additional non-life-sustaining businesses in manufacturing, distribution, supply-chain, construction, vehicle and vessel dealerships, office-based businesses (50 percent or less in office), photography, and horse-racing (no fans), according to information from Beshear's office. Each business reopening must meet certain minimum requirements in addition to industry specific guidance. Those businesses deemed life-sustaining, which have remained operating, will be expected to meet the minimum requirements no later than May 11. Those requirements

include, Wallingford said: — Continue to telework if possible. — Do a phased-in return to work, such as the city is doing. — Enforce social distancing. — Universal employee masks along with access to gloves. — Hand sanitizer and encourage hand washing. — Restrict use of common areas. — Conduct daily health/temperature checks. — Educate and train employees. A complete list of the requirements can be found at <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-healthy-at-work>. As for recreation sites, Wallingford said it is a possibility that the Maysville Mason County Recreation park, along with other parks and recreation areas could open by June 1. The park's miniature golf course and its three-par course is open although players must maintain social distancing and bring their

own equipment since the clubhouse is closed, he said. Wallingford said he expects a decision to be made “very very soon” on whether or not the pool at the park will open this year. He said regardless, it will not open in its traditionally Memorial Day date. He said he doubts it will open. The city is currently conducting its annual budget workshops, and Wallingford said the loss of payroll tax because of the pandemic will have an impact on the budget for 2020-2021. “We're probably going to have to do more with less,” he said. He asked the community to “at this point stay vigilant.” Wallingford cited Mason County's relatively low number of confirmed cases and the lack of new cases over the past two weeks as evidence of “the community stepping up and doing what is right. Everybody is doing what they should be doing. Keep it up.”

**THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT**

JENNIFER DONAHUE, Publisher  
 jdonahue@cmpapers.com, ext. 1240  
 LESLIE BAKER, Sales Manager  
 lbaker@cmpapers.com, ext. 1119  
 PEYTON DUNAWAY, Editor  
 pdunaway@cmpapers.com, ext. 1270  
 DANIEL MILLER, Sports Editor  
 dmiller@cmpapers.com, ext. 1273  
 CHAD SHELTON, Production/IT Manager  
 csnelton@cmpapers.com, ext. 1224  
 MELODY EVANS, Graphics/Pagination Manager  
 melodyevans@championcarolinasc.com

**News**  
 Story ideas, news tips, etc., should be called in to the newsroom between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Call 564-9091.

**Delivery Problems**  
 Circulation Customer Service:  
 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Comments, Letters**  
 The Ledger Independent welcomes and encourages comments from its readers on a wide variety of local, regional, state, national and international issues. Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and mailed to the Editor, The Ledger Independent, 120 Limestone St., Maysville, KY 41056. We welcome comments 24/7 at 606-564-9091 x1251. Please speak slowly and clearly when leaving a comment. The newspaper reserves the right to edit all letters and comments for libelous, obscene or other inappropriate material.

**Corrections**  
 The Ledger Independent seeks to correct all significant errors brought to the editor's attention. If you have a question or correction on news coverage, contact Peyton Dunaway, editor.

**Subscriptions**  
 Periodical postage paid at Maysville, KY. I understand that delivery and billing will continue beyond the initial order period unless I contact the newspaper at 564-9091. Rates may change after introductory offer period. Subscription rates are subject to change.

**Postmaster/Subscribers**  
 Please send notice of address change or correction by enclosing mailing address label, plus new address, two to four weeks in advance to: The Ledger Independent, 120 Limestone St., Maysville, KY 41056.

**Back Copies**  
 Back issues of The Ledger Independent are for sale at our office at 120 Limestone St. in Maysville. The Ledger Independent keeps a file of back issues for at least one month and can often provide newspapers up to a year after publication.

**Advertising**  
 To purchase display or classified advertising in The Ledger Independent, call one of the numbers listed above and an advertising representative will be happy to serve you.

**Advertising Deadlines**  
 Placement and cancellation deadlines for classified in-column line ads for Tuesday-Thursday are accepted until 2 p.m. the day before publication. Classified in-column ads for Saturday are accepted until 11 a.m. the day before publication. Ads for Monday are accepted until 2 p.m. the Friday before publication. Display advertising is accepted until 2 p.m. daily, 48 hours before publication date. Ads that require color, proofs or special camera work require an additional 24 hours added to the above deadline.

**SIA Schumacher**  
 INSURANCE AGENCY

**BUSINESS • LIFE • HEALTH • COMMERCIAL SPECIALIST**

[www.schumacherinsuranceagency.com](http://www.schumacherinsuranceagency.com)

**Eric Schumacher**  
 Owner

895 US 68 Maysville, KY 41056  
 129 West Miami St., Brooksville, KY 41004  
 58 South Main St., Mt. Olivet, KY 41064

Phone:  
 (606) 759-5663