

Looking back to May 21, 2018

Written by Jonathan Wright

The following information was entered into the May 21, 2018, edition of The Ledger Independent:

Tour travels to Bridges and Beyond

FLEMINGSBURG — Through threat of rain, the 'Bridges and Beyond' tour in Fleming County succeeded in its goal to show the community's history.

The Fleming County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism committee hosted a Bridges and Beyond tour of the county's many historical buildings and sites on Saturday. This tour showed those inside and outside of the community the rich background of the rural county's his-

tory.

The first location on the tour was the Abners Mill Chapel, located right around the Fleming-Nicholas County border. The chapel, according to the members of the tourism committee, who posed as tour guides, was part of a construction job televised on the show *Barnwood Builders* of which local Johnny Jett is a member of the cast.

Tour guides brought attention to the many stain glass windows in the small, rustic chapel. The windows were originally from an abandoned methodist church in Ewing, Kentucky, and were provided for construction of Abners Mill. The chapel was mentioned to be used for weddings and could hold around 60 people.

An offering plate sat at the altar where some attendees felt the need to make contributions.

The tour then left from the chapel, and headed towards the Elizaville Cemetery to the Franklin Souseley Memorial. Dwayne Price, nephew of Souseley, was present to speak about the local hero.

Souseley, a Fleming County native, was a soldier in World War II, and fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima. He is immortalized in the famous photo of the flag raising on the island taken by Joe Rosenthal. Souseley was killed in action shortly after, and was moved to Elizaville to be buried.

Price spoke to the crowd about his family attempting to preserve the history of Souseley,

and about how he had a hand in writing the book *From Hilltop to Mountaintop*, which documented Souseley's life.

After remembering the fallen, attendees were taken to view the three covered bridges still standing in Fleming County, of which cement it as the covered bridge capitol of the state. The Grange City, Ringos Mill and Goddard bridges were visited, with guides giving historical context of the communities that once existed around them.

Lunch was provided at the Poston one-room schoolhouse near Brownings Orchard by a local business. Tourists were shown the inside of the schoolhouse, much of which is well preserved. Several members of the tour, both

attendees and guides, who are Fleming County natives shared their stories of family members who went to the school.

Randy and Shirley Johnson are from Clark County and attended the tour. Shirley Johnson retired from an insurance brokerage company in Lexington in January, while her husband had already been retired. They heard about the tour from social media and decided to add it to their bucket list. Both of them were blown away by the historical sites in the county, with Abners Mill Chapel being what stood out the most to them.

"I think it's great," Randy Johnson said. "It's really nice that a county that believes that much in their county."

The tour concluded

it's journey through history by having the final stop be at the Fleming County museum, where tourists were able to view a variety of artifacts and photographs of the community.

Assistant Administrator of the Fleming County Chamber of Commerce Melanie Jones, who was one of the tour guides, says she loves showing off Fleming County and that it has a lot to offer.

"One of the best things about the tours, and the reason I love doing them, is because people, local people, tend to forget what they have in their own back door," Jones said. "So this is an opportunity to remind them and show it off a little and expand."

Kentucky Christian University celebrates Dr. Vicky Madden on earning terminal degree

Submitted by John Penrose

Kentucky Christian University

GRAYSON, Ky. — Kentucky Christian University is proud to celebrate Vicky Madden, Director of Institutional Assessment and Accreditation, on earning her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership with a specialty in Business from the University of the Cumberlands.

Madden successfully defended her dissertation, titled "Impact of Adjunct-to-Full-Time Faculty Ratios on Student Retention in Christian Higher Education," on Good Friday, April 3, 2026. Her research reflects a deep commitment to Christian higher education, institutional effectiveness, and student success.

"Vicky's journey is a powerful example of faithfulness, perseverance, and calling," said Dr. Terry Allcorn, President of Kentucky Christian University. "From

beginning her work at KCU in housekeeping to now serving in a key leadership role in institutional assessment and accreditation, Dr. Madden represents the very best of what it means to serve with humility, excellence, and purpose."

Madden began working at Kentucky Christian University in 2014. Over the past decade, she has grown into a vital leadership role, helping guide the university's assessment and accreditation work. She has been actively involved in major institutional initiatives, including SACSCOC level change efforts and approvals connected to KCU's expanding online academic programs.

Her educational journey is also closely tied to Kentucky Christian University. Madden earned her Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies and Secondary Social Studies Education from KCU in 2012 and her Mas-

ter of Arts in Christian Leadership from KCU in 2020 before completing her doctoral work at the University of the Cumberlands.

Beyond her professional work, Madden remains actively involved in church ministry, including missions, 1824 college-age ministry, and the welcome team. Her service reflects a continued commitment to Christian leadership both on campus and in the local church.

"Earning a terminal degree is a tremendous accomplishment," said Allcorn. "But what makes Vicky's story so meaningful is the way she has used every step of her journey to serve others, strengthen the university, and advance the mission of Christ-centered education."

Kentucky Christian University congratulates Dr. Vicky Madden on this significant academic and professional achievement.

Barr defeats Cameron to win GOP Senate primary, faces Democrat Booker in the fall

Tom Latek

Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) — Sixth District Congressman Andy Barr won the high-profile GOP primary race to succeed former Republican Leader Mitch McConnell in the U.S. Senate.

Barr, who has been in Congress since 2013, handily defeated former Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron. Barr won 62.8% of the vote to Cameron's 28.6% in the 11-person field.

Cameron was considered to be the leader early in the race, but the better-funded Barr was able to close the gap and pull ahead after receiving the endorsement of President Donald Trump.

"This victory is about the future, and whether that future will be shaped by Kentucky common sense or the craziness about the extreme far

left," said Barr in his acceptance speech.

Barr thanked his opponents for pushing him during the campaign and Trump for his backing.

"By running, they made Kentucky stronger, America stronger and they made me a better candidate. I also want to thank President Donald J. Trump. Thank you Mr. President for your powerful support. I look forward to fighting alongside you, to advance our America First agenda, and deliver for Kentucky in the United States Senate."

During his concession speech, Cameron promised to support Barr in the fall general election.

"I told him I was grateful for the campaign that he ran, and for the way he has articulated his vision for our 120 Kentucky counties. My hope is when the votes are tallied

in November and the last votes is counted, he will be Senator-elect Andy Barr," said Cameron. "I also told him that if I can be of any service to him during the fall campaign, I will certainly do it."

Barr will take on Democrat Charles Booker, a former state representative from Louisville, in the November general election.

Booker defeated retired Marine fighter pilot Amy McGrath. He became the first African American to win a U.S. Senate primary in 2022 where he eventually lost to Rand Paul in the general election.

"People didn't think this was possible in a place like Kentucky. But it's places like Kentucky that make democracy real. It's places like Kentucky that show the power of humanity, because we are hard-working and dependable."

Serial robber sentenced to 24 years

Tom Latek

Kentucky Today

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) — A Daviess County man was sentenced at U.S. District Court in Louisville to 24 years in federal prison for an armed robbery spree that involved carjackings and robbing several businesses across Jefferson and Bullitt counties.

Daniel York, 47, of Owensboro, was sentenced for several armed robberies and carjackings he committed over a three-day period in November 2024.

According to the U.S. Attorney's office, on November 4, York entered Nick's Vape & Smoke Shop on Preston Highway in Louisville, pointed a firearm at the employee, and took business cash as well as the employee's vehicle.

The next day, York

entered a Marathon Gas Station on Preston Highway in Louisville, pointed a firearm at the employee, and took business cash and the employee's phone.

One day later, York entered O'Reilly Auto Parts in Hillview, pointed a firearm at several employees, and took one of the employees' vehicles. York was arrested later that day after leading police in a high-speed chase through Scott County, Indiana, Jefferson County, Kentucky, and finally Jennings County, Indiana, while in the last victim's stolen vehicle.

This case was investigated by the Louisville Metro Police Department's (LMPD) Robbery Unit and Hillview Police Department, with assistance from the Department of Homeland Security

Investigations.

"York's offense conduct is among the most heinous prosecuted by our Office," said United States Attorney Kyle G. Bumgarner. "On three separate occasions, he walked into local businesses and held innocent employees at gunpoint. Those folks will live with that trauma for the rest of their lives. York has earned every day of his twenty-four year stay in the federal penitentiary. Congratulations to the men and women of LMPD's esteemed robbery unit and the Hillview Police Department for locating York, running him down, and building a tremendously successful prosecution."

York's sentence will be followed by five years supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system.

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