

# Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex requests Kentucky State Police assistance after locating contraband

Submitted by Kentucky State Police

WEST LIBERTY, Ky. (May 22, 2026) – At the request of the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex (EKCC), the Kentucky State Police (KSP) Post 8 in Morehead was contacted on May 21 after prison officials caught a correc-

tional officer bringing illegal narcotics into the facility.

KSP arrived on scene and opened an investigation. Based on evidence, KSP charged Joe A. Cress, 60, of Hazard, Ky., with Promoting Contraband in the First Degree, Trafficking in a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree

(greater than 20 dosage units), and Official Misconduct in the First Degree.

Mr. Cress was transported to the Rowan County Detention Center.

The investigation remains ongoing and is being led by Trooper Brian Evans.

Below is a statement

from the Department of Corrections:

“Joe Cress has been terminated effective May 22.

“The Department of Corrections takes aggressive steps to control contraband from entering the facilities, including but not limited to frisk searches, the use of body scanners,

only allowing clear bags inside and putting them through the belt x-ray machine, and limiting the number of personal belongings that employees can bring to work, among other protocols. These requirements apply to employees of DOC, visitors, vendors, and contract employees.

“The Department

remains committed to protecting both inmates and correctional employees by continually evaluating and strengthening contraband prevention efforts, and has seen a significant reduction in dangerous contraband this year, including a more than 35% decrease at the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex.”

## Elevate Academy announces 2026 Expo featuring Devin Siebold of Bored Teachers Comedy Tour

Submitted by Janelle Tomes

Elevate Academy Coordinator

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (May 2026) — Elevate Academy, Green River Regional Educational Cooperative's Premier Rank Change Program, is excited to announce the 2026 Elevate Academy Expo, a dynamic professional learning experience designed to inspire, connect, empower and highlight the work of educators across the region. This year's featured keynote speaker is nationally recognized comedian, former teacher, and educational advocate Devin Siebold, best known for his work with the Bored Teachers Comedy Tour and his humorous, honest take on the realities of life in education.

The Elevate Academy Expo is free of charge and will take place on Friday, July 17, 2026 at GRREC located at 230 Technology Way, Bowling Green, Kentucky. Attendees are welcome to spend the entire day or register for the events they would like to attend. In addition to

a variety of door prizes for attendees, Elevate Academy will be awarding one full scholarship for a Kentucky educator to earn their rank change — a value of \$5,500!!

The 2026 Elevate Academy Expo will bring together educators, instructional leaders, and education partners for a day focused on innovation, leadership, collaboration that will conclude with a celebration for those educators who have recently completed Elevate Academy's Rank Change Program. Participants will engage in meaningful professional learning opportunities while celebrating the impact educators make every day in schools and communities.

Devin Siebold has become a nationally recognized voice in education through his stand-up comedy, viral videos, podcasts, and live events that connect deeply with teachers across the country. His keynote will blend humor, authenticity, and encouragement, offering educators both laughter and renewed

inspiration.

“We are thrilled to welcome Devin Siebold to the Elevate Expo,” said Dale Goatley, Program Director. “His ability to connect with educators through humor and honesty aligns perfectly with our mission to support, elevate, and celebrate those who serve students every day.”

In addition to the keynote session, the Expo will feature:

Interactive breakout sessions;

Innovative instructional showcases;

Networking opportunities;

Opportunities to learn about earning a Rank Change; and

Celebrations of educator impact and growth.

The Elevate Academy Expo is designed to highlight and celebrate the innovative work Elevate Academy Candidates engage in throughout their Rank Change journey.

For more information and to register for the event, please visit: <https://www.rankchange.org/elevate-academy-expo-2026>.

## Portion of Piqua Kentontown Road (KY 617) in Robertson County blocked until further notice

Road closure is in place south of Waterworks Road

Submitted by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet – District 6

COVINGTON, Ky. (May 26, 2026) – The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) advises motorists of a full road closure on a portion of Piqua Kentontown Road (KY 617) in Robertson County. This closure is in place due to a slide.

The road is closed

south of Waterworks Road at the 3.9 mile point. This closure will remain in place until further notice.

Motorists can detour using U.S. 62 and KY 165.

KYTC will provide an update once repairs to reopen the road are scheduled.

Project schedules are subject to change due to inclement weather or other unforeseen

circumstances. For the most current information on road construction in Northern Kentucky, please visit the District 6 Roadshow or the Driving Northern Kentucky Progress website. You can also stay informed by following KYTC District 6 on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). For statewide traffic and travel updates, visit GoKY.

## Kentucky State Police Post 8 investigate fatal collision in Powell County

Submitted by Kentucky State Police

STANTON, Ky. (May 27, 2026) – On Tuesday, May 26 at approximately 7:30 p.m., Kentucky State Police (KSP) Post 8 received a call from Powell County Dispatch requesting assistance with a single vehicle fatality collision.

Preliminary investigation indicates that Luke J. Pierce, 19, of Mount Sterling, Kentucky, was traveling North bound along Morris Creek Road in Powell County when he lost control of his vehicle causing it to leave the roadway traveling over an embankment striking a tree. Mr. Pierce was

pronounced deceased at the scene by Powell County Coroner Megan Wells-Curtis.

KSP was assisted on scene by Powell County Sheriff's Office, Powell County Fire and EMS, and Powell County Coroner. This collision remains under investigation by Trooper Austin Miller.

## Kentucky Department of Agriculture welcomes summer interns

Thirteen college students will work beside KDA employees to gain experience, insight

Submitted by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 26, 2026) – Thirteen college students are interning this summer at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) assisting KDA employees and Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell help residents across the state with agricultural needs.

“The best way to really learn about a career is to work side-by-side with the employees doing the job each and every day,” Commissioner Shell said. “This is exactly what KDA's internship program offers college students. Interns gain a unique learning experience that could launch a lifelong career in a variety of ag-related fields. It's a great stepping stone and that we are excited to provide.”

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's summer internship program provides opportunities for students to

gain first-hand experience, knowledge, and understanding of the governmental process through pre-professional work in various occupational fields. KDA offers internships for students studying majors both directly and indirectly relating to agriculture. Career paths of current and former interns include, but are not limited to, agriculture, education, computer science, marketing, public relations, and pre-law.

KDA interns work with KDA employees learning the various programs of the departments that make up KDA, allowing them to gain insight into considering a future career within the ag industry.

During their internships, students attend livestock shows, proclamations, conferences, and travel with the Commissioner to a variety of events. In addition, interns work closely with employees to develop social media promotions, help teach the

public about farm safety, and work with the senior's market and the junior chef programs.

This year's interns are:

Savannah Anderson, Owen County, attending Berea College

Zoie Anglin, Frankfort, attending University of Kentucky

Jenna Diaz, Lawrenceburg, attending University of Kentucky

Matthew Estes, Cave City, attending University of Kentucky

Emma Filiatreau, Bardstown, attending Oklahoma State University

Jesse Fulkerson, Upton, attending University of Kentucky

Benton Hayes, Liberty, attending Yale University

Stephen Lemon, Frankfort, attending University of Kentucky

Sierra Morris, Franklin County, attending Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College

Olivia Raybourne, Woodford County, University of Kentucky J.

David Rosenberg College of Law

Kayleigh Thomas,

Elizabethtown, University of Kentucky

Laken White, Princ-

eton, Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine

Madison Wright, Owenton, University of Kentucky



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