

Update From Senator Mitch McConnell

Submitted by the Office of Mitch McConnell

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) issued the following statement today:

“Earlier today, I was discharged from the rehabilitation center to continue my recovery at home. Elaine and I are grateful for the many well wishes and support from friends, colleagues, and Kentuckians, and for the attentive care I’ve received from excellent doctors, nurses, therapists, and hospital staff.

“On the advice of my doctors, I’ll maintain an intensive regimen of physical therapy from home during the state work period, and I’ll continue to engage with my staff and colleagues on important Senate business.”

Traffic Advisory: Road closure on KY 161 in Mason County

Submitted by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet – District 9

FLEMINGSBURG, Ky. (Aug. 6, 2026) – Beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 10, KY 161 in Mason County will be closed a quarter of a mile southeast of Flat Ford Road at mile point 1.5 for a small bridge replacement project. KYTC will be replacing a small bridge with a new aluminum box culvert. This closure will be a twenty four hour a day closure and it is expected to reopen on Friday, August 14 at 3:00 p.m.

Message boards are in place and traffic can utilize KY 170 and KY 324 to navigate around the closure.

Road work schedules are subject to change depending on weather conditions. Motorists are asked to heed all warning signs, slow down in work zones, and remain aware of workers and construction equipment when traveling. For up-to-date traffic information, go to goky.ky.gov or use the WAZE app.

Shawnee State University to host an Express Registration Aug. 14

Submitted by Shawnee State University

PORTSMOUTH, Ohio – Shawnee State University’s Office of Admission will host an Express Registration event on Friday, Aug. 14, beginning at 9:00 a.m., for students interested in enrolling for the Fall 2026 semester.

Express Registration allows students to complete the enrollment process in one visit. Attendees can receive assistance with filing the FAFSA, meet with an Academic Advisor to select courses, discuss scholarship and grant options with Financial Aid, and obtain their BearCard Student ID. Staff from the Office of Admission will also be available to help students who have not yet completed their application to Shawnee State University.

Shawnee State University’s Fall 2026 semester will begin on Monday, Aug. 24.

For additional details and registration information, visit shawnee.edu/express-registration-day.

Quinn Simple Scenes: Drive-in movies

By Rix Quinn

There’s nothing like a cool night, a warm date, and a cold drink at a drive-in movie.

It’s sad to read that this sunset entertainment is declining. In the 1960s, there were about 4000 nationwide. Today there are reportedly under 200.

Drive-ins were places that welcomed children (many had playgrounds), several teenagers piled into one car, young romantics, and older people who enjoyed an open-air event.

At our neighborhood drive-in, they sold admission tickets “by the carload.” For \$5, teens could bring in as many bodies as they could squeeze into a vehicle. This made the kid who owned a pick-up truck a really popular guy.

But some teen couples – and young adults too – didn’t want company. They wanted darkness and privacy, and they didn’t even

care if the car speaker worked.

What about the movies? My favorite drive-in carried mostly older films, and ran them as multiple features. These started around sundown, and stayed onscreen until past midnight.

One evening near Halloween was really special. They showed a triple horror feature of The Birds, King Kong, and Dracula.

They called it “The Birds, The Ape, and the Guy with the Cape.”

Looking back to Aug. 10, 2018

Written by Christy Hoots

The following information was entered into the Aug. 10, 2018, edition of The Ledger Independent:

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MCMS students do STEM projects

Several engineering-related projects were completed by Mason County Middle School students during a recent Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics camp.

MCMS sixth grade science teacher Amanda Underwood said the camp is for girls of middle school age to learn about careers in the STEM field.

“They usually pick coding or robotics, usually something engineering related,” she said. “The groups work with video editing and getting the projects together. Then one day during the week, we’ll take them to businesses in the area that integrate different forms of technology so the kids can see different careers they could go into and see some real life applications.”

On Thursday, Carlson Software had a scavenger hunt set up for the students.

“They had different coordinates set up and when they went to one coordinate, it sent them to the next until they got to the end coordinate,” Underwood said. “Today, that prize was at the Parc Cafe.”

The camp is funded through a grant from the Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative, according to MCMS sixth grade mathematics teacher Brianne McDowell.

“We received a grant and they have helped to purchase all of the equipment and stuff for the girls to have in order to create the projects,” McDowell said.

On Friday, the students will present their projects.

“In the morning, they will have time to complete their projects and in the afternoon, they will present their projects in a low-key way in which people can walk around and see the different ways they’ve been working during the week,” Underwood said.

McDowell said some of the projects included building a drone, coding robots to go through obstacle courses, building a computer and programming it, building a Ferris wheel type hummingbird feeder, building a pinball machine and other projects.

“There are a lot of great projects,” McDowell said.

Destiny Dow, seventh grader at MCMS is building a

drone, but it will take longer than the week-long camp to complete.

“Right now, I’m just building the base of it and then going into the school year, I’ll start doing the battery and electrical stuff,” she said.

Dow said she wanted to build the drone after flying one last year.

“Last year, I flew the drone, so I’m a little advanced with them,” she said. “I just really like drones and I wanted to be able to build my own. The hardest part is making the pieces fit together. They have to be sanded down and sometimes they don’t want to fit together right.”

Bailey McDowell is building a computer and coding it.

“The computer kit came with everything I needed. There were boards, chips, motherboard. I’m working on motion sensors. I’ve programmed it so that when I put something over it, things will move, disappear and reappear. What I want to do is make it so when you put your hand over it and move up and down, it will play music.”

Maura Hartman, a seventh grader at MCMS, is building a Maker Bot.

According to Hartman, a Maker Bot is a hard drive that is put together.

“It’s made through block coding, so you put the blocks together and it moves by seconds,” she said. “You can move it forward by 3.1 seconds. At a speed, it goes from 100 to 150 to 255.”

Hartman said she is programming the robot to complete an obstacle course.

“I’m the only one who has ever done it,” she said. “I’ve built an obstacle course and making it go through it. The hardest part is probably figuring out where to start. Even if you outline where you have to start it, each time it will go differently.”

Hartman said she chose to build the robot, because she wanted to make it better than the robot she worked on with a partner last year.

“Last year, I thought it looked fun. I built one with a partner and it took us two full days. We were barely able to code it. This year, I wanted to be able to have better coding. It took me one hour to build it myself,” she said.

1,020 students to attend the Governor’s Scholars Program

Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear has congratulated the 1,020 outstanding high school seniors from 114 counties across the state who recently completed the 44th Kentucky Governor’s Scholars Program (GSP).

The program took place at three locations: Centre College, Morehead State University and Murray State University.

“This program gives students a chance to learn about their studies and themselves while building a network of mentors, scholars and friends that can last a lifetime,” said Beshear, himself a 1995 GSP graduate. “Congratulations to this year’s graduating class. Y’all are our future and I can’t wait to see what you do next.”

GSP is a five-week residential summer program with staggered starting dates at three Kentucky college campuses. The 2026 program at Morehead State University

ran from June 13-July 17, Centre College ran from June 14-July 18, and Murray State University was June 21-July 25. Since 1983, the residential summer program has focused on enhancing Kentucky’s next generation of civic and economic leaders through educational and career opportunities at college campuses across the state.

Including the Class of 2026, more than 39,000 students have completed the program, which is administratively attached to the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

The 2026 Governor’s Scholars took classes in 25 subject areas including forensic science; health-care industry; physical science; theatre arts; engineering; and agribusiness and biotechnology. They also attended general studies classes to balance the scientific and humanistic fields of study, as well as a leadership seminar on themes related to their age group as they continue their path to personal and professional success.

To participate in the highly com-

petitive program, a statewide selection committee chose well-rounded participants based on nominations submitted by each Kentucky school district and home school. Selection criteria are based on academic records and test scores; teacher and community recommendations; extracurricular and service activities; honors and awards; and a writing entry. There is no cost to students selected to participate in the program.

When GSP began in 1983, Kentucky leaders wanted to encourage high-achieving Kentucky seniors to attend a Kentucky college or university to reduce the “brain drain,” as a growing number of students were choosing to go out of state to attend college. According to the most recent data, nearly 75% of 2023 scholars chose to pursue higher education in Kentucky in the fall of 2024.

To learn more about the Governor’s Scholars Program, go to gsp.ky.gov

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