

Kentucky State Police Post 8 traffic safety checkpoint announcement

Submitted by Kentucky State Police

MOREHEAD, Ky. (Sept. 1, 2026) – The Kentucky State Police (KSP), Morehead Post would like to offer periodic reminders to drivers who travel our roadways. Our agency strives daily to ensure the

safety of the motoring public. Some of these proactive measures include various roadside safety checkpoints and saturating known problematic areas in the district through general patrol tactics. The Kentucky State Police utilizes traffic safety checkpoints to promote

safety for motorists using the public roadways and to provide a deterrent for those who violate laws contained in the Kentucky Revised Statutes. The intent of a traffic safety checkpoint is to provide high visibility, public safety service, focusing on operator impairment,

vehicular equipment deficiencies (confirming appropriate registration and insurance of vehicles) and the valid licensing of drivers. Other violations of law and/or other public safety issues that arise will be addressed. These checkpoints will allow the Kentucky State

Police the opportunity to periodically concentrate its efforts in checking for violations of Kentucky traffic and regulatory laws that will ultimately increase the safety of the citizens within the Commonwealth. Post 8 serves the following counties: Bath, Elliott, Fleming, Lewis, Mason,

Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Powell, Rowan and Wolfe. Traffic Safety checkpoint locations in the Post 8 District may be located at our web site: <https://www.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/post-8checkpoints>

Looking back to Sept. 3, 2018

Written by Christy Hoots

The following information was entered into the Sept. 3, 2018, edition of The Ledger Independent:

Local soldier added to war monument

The name of a Bracken County soldier killed in Afghanistan was added to the War Memorial in Augusta on Saturday. Outside the Mains-Quinlin Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Augusta is a monument with the names of soldiers from Bracken County who were killed in wars throughout history. On Saturday, Jeremy Summers, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2011, was added to that list. The addition was a part of a much larger ceremony to remember those who had been killed in World War I.

Inside the VFW was also an exhibit with Bracken County memorabilia from World War I. Heather French Henry, an Augusta native, spoke during the ceremony. “It is always a pleasure

to be here to honor our heroes and our fallen heroes,” she said. “Sadly, many of our young people today are not taught much about World War I. No matter how much time it takes to learn about that history, every day is a chance to honor those who fought for us. Being here today, we are showing actions that we truly care. May we never forget that the true fabric of our nation isn’t celebrities or the almighty dollar, it’s the men and women who’ve laid down their lives for that wonderful flag.”

The featured speaker of the morning was Lt. Col. John Caputo, who spoke about importance of remembering those have fallen.

“It was hard sometimes to come to work, because you might lose a pilot or lose a friend,” he said. “It was tough, but we didn’t really say much about them when they left. It was the way we were trained. We just didn’t talk about it, but that eventually changed for my squadron when

the most well liked member of the squadron was killed. This guy was just well loved. He was a great guy. We were devastated when it happened.”

Caputo said a colonel was asked to speak to the group because everyone had such a difficult time with the death.

“He came in and said, ‘I want you all to think about your high school friends.’ We’d all been out of high school for many years, so we weren’t sure where this was going. He said, ‘I want you to tell me about your high school friends and how many of them are alive and how many are deceased.’ We told him we didn’t know and he said, ‘those people, who are alive, but you don’t think about and you don’t talk about to you, they’re gone. You’re not making any effort to include them in your life.’”

According to Caputo, the colonel told the soldiers that by not remembering others and talking about them, it truly makes the person gone.

“He challenged us in

the case of our friend to remember his flying abilities and his personality,” Caputo said. “He told us to not act like he never existed. It was like someone gave us permission to remember our friend and not put him aside. It made quite an impact for us. You just have to work through memories and not let them out of your life.”

After Caputo spoke, a ceremony to reveal the inscription of Summer’s name on the monument.

Summers was a 27-year-old US Army soldier stationed in Afghanistan who was killed on July 14, 2011 after being wounded from small arms fire. He was a 2002 Bracken County High School graduate. He had served in Iraq prior to being stationed in Afghanistan. He was posthumously ranked as a Sargeant.

Summer’s parents, Mike and Laura Summers were present to complete the unveiling.

Laura Summers said it was honored to see her son remembered in such



Photo by Terry Prather
Prior to the start of the annual Augusta Heritage Days Saturday, many took time to remember those who served in World War I. Top Photo: Augusta Post 9535 of the VFW member Andy Reynolds, Heather French Henry, Ret. USMC Lt. Col. John Caputo, and Laura and Mike Summers. Bottom left: Chris Clark and Michael Putini salute during the playing of the National Anthem. Both men served in the armed forces. Bottom right: members of Augusta Post 9535 prepare for a 21 gun salute. ‘Remembering WWI 100th Anniversary’ was sponsored by Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs and Kentucky Utilities-Louisville Gas and Electric.

a way. “I really, truly appreciate it,” she said. “Anytime they do anything like that, for anyone, it’s an honor. He was 18 when he went in the first time. He went in, did a tour in Iraq, came out and went

to college, and he decided he wanted to go back. He was posthumously a Sargeant, because he was in the process of working toward that rank.” Jeremy Summers name will remain on the monument.

Gov. Beshear calls on Congressman Barr to stand up for Kentucky’s rural hospitals and healthcare

Governor corrects misleading and inaccurate statements by Rep. Barr in Aug. 25 letter

Submitted by the Office of Governor Andy Beshear

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 1, 2026) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear sent a letter to U.S. Rep. Andy Barr correcting misleading and inaccurate statements regarding the impact of Medicaid cuts on Kentucky’s rural hospitals and the use of funding from the Rural Health

Transformation Program. The Governor called on the Congressman to take steps to undo the damage he caused by supporting President Donald Trump’s “Big, Ugly Bill,” which will result in the commonwealth losing at least \$21 billion in Medicaid funding, strip 250,000 Kentuckians of their health insurance and endanger the livelihoods of 20,000 health-

care workers. The Governor issued the letter in response to one received from the Congressman, which questioned the data provided by the Kentucky Hospital Association related to Medicaid cuts and their impact, and inaccurately stated how funding from the Rural Health Transformation Program can be used by the state.

“These Medicaid cuts have put 35 Kentucky rural hospitals at risk of closing. These aren’t my words; they come from the Kentucky Hos-

pital Association, which repeatedly warned that our state faces the highest number of rural hospitals at risk of shutting down due to this cruel and careless legislation that Congressman Barr supported,” said Gov. Beshear. “And while my administration secured \$212 million this year through the Rural Health Transformation Program, guidelines from the federal government prevent us from directing these funds to protect rural hospitals. The Congressman should check his facts before misleading Kentuckians.”

‘Big, Ugly Bill’ and Medicaid cuts

As early as June 2025, the Kentucky Hospital Association, Gov. Beshear and other healthcare leaders began to sound the alarm on the “Big, Ugly Bill” and the negative impacts it would have on rural hospitals throughout the commonwealth and the patients they serve. In July 2025, the Kentucky Hospital Association and leaders from state hospitals and health systems sent a letter to the U.S. House Representatives citing that one third of citizens in the commonwealth rely on Medicaid, which also covers 50% of Kentucky’s children. The let-

ter stated clearly that 35 hospitals were likely to close, that people would lose their jobs and that local economies would suffer. A number of credible organizations have shared the data highlighted by Gov. Beshear and the Kentucky Hospital Association, including the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, a number of media outlets and more. Rural Health Transformation Plan In December 2025, the Governor announced that Kentucky’s Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP) was accepted in full by the Trump administration, securing \$212.9 million in funding to lessen the impacts of recent federal cuts and help support healthcare in Kentucky’s rural communities. The federal plan was announced by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the president’s secretary for Health and Human Services, and Dr. Mehmet Oz, the administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, who clearly stated in a published op-ed that these dollars could not be used to fund struggling hospitals. They put it in even starker terms: “Throwing money at

struggling hospital operations is like a Band-Aid on a severed artery, leaving a broken system in place.” Gov. Beshear has acknowledged that the more than \$212 million does not come close to covering the gap caused by the federal cuts to Medicaid; however, it can be used to support rural health in areas that will have greater need in the years to come. Kentucky’s plan was developed by the Beshear administration in partnership with health partners from across the state and will use the \$212.9 million over five years to help address the unique challenges rural Kentuckians face, including high rates of chronic conditions, maternity care deserts and gaps in coverage for oral care, emergency services and behavioral health. “Healthcare is a basic human right, and it was a priority for me and my administration to submit this application and fight for funding to support our rural health communities – especially following the passage of devastating Medicaid cuts,” said Gov. Beshear. “I am proud our community-driven plan was accepted in full.”

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