

The torch has been passed...

I'm sure the more politically minded readers picked up on that shameless rip-off instantly, but I'm a huge history buff — plus, it was my first thought when I was deciding on a headline for this introduction. I've heard that “good writers borrow from other writers; great writers steal from them outright,” so I hope you'll allow me to use a stolen — albeit appropriate — phrase.

My name is Michael Crimmins, and I will be the editor of this publication for



MICHAEL CRIMMINS

the foreseeable future. I was born and raised in Glasgow. After a yearlong stint in St. Louis, I attended Western Kentucky University where I majored in journalism with a minor in political science. While attending WKU, I was very active in the student publication — the College Heights Herald. I produced daily content there on almost every subject, from lawsuits, faculty senate and board of regents, to slice-of-life features, student activities

and community events. Graduating in 2023, I went to work for a local radio company in Glasgow, covering county politic, school board, crime, agriculture, and economic development news. There I produce at least six pieces of local news in an effort to fill out the daily community newsletter.

Now I'm here. Truth be told, I was hesitant to write this because the news is not about me. The news is not a self-aggrandizing adventure — at least, it shouldn't be. News, especially local news like the kind I now get to compile, is about you; the

stories of the people in the community who make it what it is, and verifiable facts.

Actually, I've already used “I” and “me” more than I ever like to when it comes to news writing, but suffice to say I look forward to this new responsibility, and I am humbled and honored that I get to be a part — even if only a small part — of telling the community's stories.

I'm looking forward to getting to know you better, and thank you for letting me share our stories with you.

Truly yours,
Michael Crimmins

The Lunar Eclipse across the region



Overnight — between Aug. 27-28 — stargazers throughout western Kentucky were delighted by a partial lunar eclipse. Approximately 96% of the moon was covered as the Earth passed between it and the Sun, according to Science.com. People across the region, spanning multiple counties captured the extraterrestrial phenomenon.

BERRY

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communities.”

Honoree Wendell Berry attends the 2013 Roosevelt Institute Four Freedoms Awards & Benefit reception at St. James' Episcopal Church on October 16, 2013 in New York City. (Photo by Taylor Hill/Getty Images)

The center educates farmers “in agrarian thought and practice,” runs a bookstore, has a cooperative to help farmers sell to markets and more.

The work is in line with Berry's legacy of advocacy for land preservation and agrarian life.

BERRY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Berry had a complicated relationship with his alma mater, the University of Kentucky.

He earned his bachelor and master's degrees in English from UK, according to the Kentucky Historical Society. He then taught at the University of Kentucky from 1964-1977 and again from 1987-1993. (His teaching roster also includes Stanford University, Georgetown College, New York University, the University of Cincinnati and Bucknell University).

In late 2009, Berry withdrew papers he'd loaned UK, a quiet protest against the university's acceptance of \$7 million from coal producer and philanthropist Joe Craft to rename a residence hall the “Wildcat Coal Lodge.”

OFFICER

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experience for each student, according to the post, that used adult-learning concepts. The training provides the foundation for success for an entry-level law enforcement officer.

“Law Enforcement Basic Training involves many areas of training in a residential setting. The 809+ hour curriculum is a mentally and physically demanding challenge,” the department stated. “Using a multi-faceted approach, recruits receive instruction in law enforcement in a disciplined environment stressing the Basic Training Creed.”

McClellan will be paired with a veteran officer for an additional three months of field training before being permanently assigned to a patrol shift.

The Kentucky Kernel, the independent student newspaper at UK, reported that Berry could not abide what he considered an indignity as an advocate for the land and water polluted by mining.

“I was taught that taking care of land was one of the primary human responsibilities,” the Kernel quoted Berry as saying. “In the long run, the top soil, the forests and the woodland of this state will be more valuable than the coal deposits.”

Berry felt the university's move was a split from his values and those held by other farmers.

“When the university accepted the gift from (the) coal industry in return for naming the basketball dormitory ‘Wildcat Coal Lodge,’ the university had sold an advertisement,” Berry said, according to the Kernel.

That wasn't the only time Berry and UK clashed.

In July 2020, Berry joined a lawsuit against the University of Kentucky seeking to preserve a controversial 1934 fresco mural many criticised for its depictions of slavery in America and of Indigenous people.

Ann Rice O'Hanlon painted the fresco as part of the Public Works of Art Project and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

It was a site for protests on campus and requests to have it removed for years. According to court documents, complaints began in the 1970s.

University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto agreed to cover the mural in 2019 following a sit-in protest on campus that included the Black Student Advisory Council and others. In June 2020, seemingly moved by the racial justice movement sweeping through the country, he announced the university would remove it.

The next month, Berry stepped in and asked a court to halt the removal. In court documents from the time, Berry argued the art needed to be conserved because of its historical significance, difficulty to create and rarity, being one of around 42 frescos from the time.

“The O'Hanlon Mural is a figurative representation of the history of Lexington and Central Kentucky,” Berry's petition read.

He wrote of her “artistic choices that abstract the essential truths of the art as opposed to mere representation,” which he said “is part of what makes the O'Hanlon Mural unique and a valuable piece of the cultural assets of Kentucky held in trust by the University.”

The Lexington Herald-Leader reported in January 2026 that the mural remains in its place on campus.

‘RADICAL AND ECLECTIC’

The late bell hooks, a renowned Kentucky author known for her many writings on feminist theory, racism and love, among other topics, wrote fondly of

Berry in “belonging: a culture of place,” one of some 40 books she published throughout her career.

She praised him for the “wide range of issues in his essays that were fundamentally radical and eclectic.” She taught at Berea College from his book about race, “The Hidden Wound.”

Berry also inspired actor and writer Nick Offerman of Parks and Recreation fame. Offerman, himself an outdoorsman, has narrated several of Berry's books for audiobook format, including his magnum opus, “The Unsettling of America.”

In a 2020 interview with Literary Hub, Offerman said in Berry he “unexpectedly found a chronicler of the nobility found in good, honest work, and thrift, and affection for one's family and neighbors and animals and the land that supports and nourishes all of the above.”

“I have often asserted that if my job were simply to broadcast the works of Wendell Berry to the world, I'd die a happy man,” Offerman said in that interview.

HONORS
Former President

Barack Obama awarded Berry with the 2010 National Humanities Medal for his work as a poet, novelist, farmer and conservationist.

He also earned other notable honors, including the T.S. Eliot Prize, the Aiken Taylor Award for poetry, the John Hay Award of the Orion Society and the Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, according to the Poetry Foundation.

In 1961, he traveled in France and Italy as part of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a prestigious honor for “exceptional individuals in pursuit of scholarship in any field

of knowledge and creation in any art form under the freest possible conditions.” The Fellowship has gone to other notable writers including Ada Limón, Roxane Gay, Carmen Maria Machado and Sigrid Nunez.

His slew of other honors include the Kentucky Libraries Award for Intellectual Excellence, the Thomas Merton Award, The Cleanth Brooks Medal for Lifetime Achievement from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, the Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion from The American Academy of Religion, the Poets' Prize and others.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A second reading of a proposed ordinance amending the Graves County budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027, to include unanticipated receipts from the Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Department of Highways, in the amount of \$340,000 and Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Department of Rural & Municipal Aid, in the amount of \$645,296.00, and increasing expenditures in the area of Road Funds. Reading will be held on September 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Purchase Area Development Office. A copy of the proposed ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the county judge / executive during normal business hours.

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