

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY**

# Man to seek temporary insanity after shooting, wounding 4 people

Temporary insanity will be the defense of John Milburn, who in a frenzy, brought on by a mixture of jealousy, drink and dope, shot his former sweetheart Mary King and three of a posse of four patrolmen who went to his home to arrest him. But one of the victims is confined to his bed with his wounds. Patrolman Charles Hayes suffering a slight operation for the removal of a bullet from his leg. A change of venue will also be asked by the young desperado, who returned to Owensboro to "face the music" when he was being transferred to the county jail from the city holdover. When asked by City Judge R. E. Watkins whether he wanted to plead guilty or not guilty, Milburn said that he had no recollection of what happened in Owensboro.

Feb. 23, 1926, George Lewis, of Cincinnati, general manager of the Crossley Radio Corporation, and Foreign Representative Keith, of Liverpool, England, arrived in Owensboro and are negotiating for the purchase of the Ken-Rad Co., in Owensboro. The Crossley company will expect to use the plant as a branch for the manufacture of radio tubes and parts for the Crossley corporation. The present plant has about 175 employees, 150 of which are women.

Feb. 24, indictments on three counts were returned against John Booth, 22, by a special grand jury empaneled to investigate an alleged attack on Evelyn Ashby and two other charges. The other two indictments were for detaining

Opal Bowles against her will and one of assault and battery on Mollie Hughes, whom he is alleged to have beaten over the head with a piece of iron.

Feb. 25, Roy Nichols, who was cut in the head and leg by French Beauchamp, his father-in-law of a week, was reported by his cousin as improving and believed by his physicians, Drs. C.M. Heavrin and Griffin, to be out of danger. Young Nichols was cut by Beauchamp when the latter learned the former had secretly married his daughter.

Feb. 26, John Milburn, 30 years old and drug crazed, is at liberty after shooting and wounding four persons, a young girl and three Owensboro policemen. That Milburn was not shot down by the four patrolmen sent to arrest him at his home in the East end of Owensboro was due to the fact that he was surrounded by women as he stood at the stop of the stairs leading to his rooms and pumped bullets into the officers. Mary King was shot on the right shoulder and probably saved her life by grappling with the drug-crazed bandit.

Feb. 27, the Walnut Street Baptist church will have a training school next week. Preceding the opening of the school, 200 workers will take a religious census of the west end of the city. They will meet at the church for instructions before going into the various districts. It is expected, with seventy-five automobiles at their disposal, these workers can complete the canvass in two hours and their information can be classified for a report at the Sunday night service.

**50 YEARS AGO**

Feb. 23, 1976, four out of five days a week Carolyn Von Lehman gets a telephone call between 6 a.m.

and 7 a.m. The calls are part of her daily routine. The voice on the other end of the line is Mary Ruth Shiver. On an average day, about 20 people receive an early morning call from Mrs. Shiver to see if they can work as a substitute in the city school system. The pay for a substitute in the city schools ranges from \$23 a day for a person with a bachelor's degree and no certification to \$30 a day for certified teachers with a master's degree plus 30 additional college hours.

Feb. 24, approval of federal disaster aid to repair last week's flood damage in Ohio and Hopkins counties probably won't come until today or Wednesday. R.B. Blankenship, state director of the federal Small Business Administration, said the approval was not given because the disaster application had been filled out later than expected. Damage in the counties from flooding is estimated at \$400,000.

Feb. 25, pending the signature of the governor, Maple Mount will be henceforth inscribed on the maps of Kentucky. All 1977 state maps put out by the Kentucky Department of Transportation will include Maple Mount. Rep. Donald Blandford, D-Philpot, moved for the passage of the Maple Mount bill, introduced by Sen. Delbert Murphy, D-Owensboro, and passed earlier by the Senate. Maple Mount includes the Motherhouse of the Ursuline Community and a private boarding school for girls.

Feb. 26, Owensboro police were searching for a 36-year-old man who escaped from Daviess County Jailer Harold Ranson's custody as Ranson was bringing the man back to the jail after treatment at Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital. Roy Dale Crocker who had been in jail on misdemeanor charges, escaped from Ranson's car.

# Wendell Foster half marathon continues to grow

They're expecting 1,200 on March 28

BY KEITH LAWRENCE  
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The Wendell Foster half marathon and 5K, which is coming up on March 28, is becoming a major event.

Two years ago, it drew 940 runners and walkers. Last year, the event topped 1,100 people from 16 states.

And this year, they're preparing for 1,200.

On Thursday, 650 people from 15 states had already signed up with more than a month to go.

Kara Howard, vice president of development and community engagement at Wendell Foster and director of the race, said the event drew more than 800 people in 2019 — its inaugural year.

And then the coronavirus pandemic hit.

"But we've had a really good bounce back," Howard said.

It's not only open to runners in the half-marathon and 5K, the event is open to walkers, wheelchairs and a steps division for those who are disabled and want to do 6,200 steps.

Participants can run or walk in either division.

Registration is \$85 for the half marathon and \$40 for the 5K.

Howard said people interested can register at wfhalf.com.

"We encourage people to sign up soon," she said.

The deadline isn't until March 27, but Howard said it will end when 1,200 have signed up.

The races start at 7 a.m. in Smothers Park.

The race course remains the same as in past years.

The half-marathon has been attracting national attention in the running community since it began in 2019, Howard said.

She said people who live along the route are encouraged to come out and cheer the runners.

"We're a small race, but we have a big race field," Howard said.

Runners can pick up their packets and shirts at the Expo at the Owensboro Convention Center

**Money raised by the event goes to provide about 69,000 services each year to people with developmental disabilities.**

on March 27. Several vendors will be there too.

Sponsors include Owensboro Health, Southern Star, The Settle Group Baird Private Wealth Management, Boardwalk Pipeline Partners and the Kentucky Poultry Federation.

The poultry producers will be providing protein snacks that include boiled eggs, turkey pinwheels and chicken legs.

Howard said Wendell Foster couldn't do the event without the support it receives from the city and the Owensboro Police Department.

She said the race needs about 400 volunteers each year.

Money raised by the event goes to provide about 69,000 services each year to people with developmental disabilities.

Prize money includes \$200 for the top male and female runners, \$100 for second place for both genders and \$50 for third place.

The Half Marathon course time limit is three hours and 45 minutes.

Keith Lawrence; klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com

**Lottery Numbers**

Monday's lottery numbers:

- Kentucky**
- Midday Pick 3:** 3-9-8
- Midday Pick 4:** 3-0-2-0
- Evening Pick 3:** 6-1-9
- Evening Pick 4:** 5-6-1-9
- Cash Ball 225:** 1-12-15-32; The Cash Ball was 8
- Millionaire For Life:** 11-18-21-25-55
- The Millionaire Ball was 1
- Powerball:** 5-11-23-29-47 **PB:** 6 x2
- Indiana**
- Midday Daily 3:** 4-4-1
- Super Ball was 5
- Midday Daily 4:** 8-6-6-6
- Super Ball was 5
- Evening Daily 3:** 1-6-6
- Super Ball was 1
- Evening Daily 4:** 6-0-2-1
- Super Ball was 1
- Cash 5:** 10-30-36-42-43

# Kentucky children keep dying in 'preventable' drug overdoses

BY SARAH LADD  
KENTUCKY LANTERN

Kentucky children are increasingly ingesting and overdosing on unsafe substances like cannabinoids and fentanyl, with the rate increasing by more than 100% in the last five years, a new report shows.

The annual report from Kentucky's Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel shows an increase in physical child abuse as well among the 72 child fatalities and 176 near fatalities in fiscal year 2024. The panel only reviews fatal and near-fatal cases. There were nearly 15,000 cases of child maltreatment in Kentucky in 2024, according to a federal report released in January.

Findings show a lack of parental and caregiver education around the dangers of routine medications as well as system failures, including packaging of cannabinoids that fails to adequately communicate the risks products pose to children and mistakes made by the state in investigating allegations.

Dr. Christina Howard, a child abuse pediatrician and a member of the panel, said the ingestion and overdose cases investigated by the panel are "absolutely preventable."

While THC and medical cannabis products are available to adults, "we do know that they can be dangerous to children when they're accessed," Howard said. "And I think that's kind of what we want the general population to know: You ... have things in your home that are dangerous. Tylenol can be dangerous to kids. Making sure that those are stored in a way that children cannot access them is very important."

Packaging and marketing of these products also needs improvement, she said. They need to clearly communicate to consumers that products that may look



Arden Barnes/Kentuck Lantern/Paxton Media

Dr. Christina Howard and Darcy, a therapy dog, in the Kentucky Children's Kosair for Kids Center for Safe & Healthy Children & Families last May in Lexington.



Kosair for Kids/Paxton Media

Dr. Gerard Rabalais speaking at child abuse awareness rally in 2025.

appealing to children, like a cannabis brownie, can seriously hurt them.

The Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel was created in 2012 to conduct comprehensive reviews of child deaths and serious injuries from abuse or neglect. The independent panel of physicians, judges, lawyers, police, legislators and social service and health professionals meets regularly to analyze such cases. It produces an annual report on its findings and recommendations for improvements.

**KEY FINDINGS IN THE REPORT**

The latest report, which is more than 100 pages, details findings based on incidents in the 2024 fiscal year, which was July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. The findings include:

98 children ingested or overdosed on dangerous substances. The most common substances in these cases were cannabinoids (28%), fentanyl (19%) and methamphetamine (16%).

11 children died from ingestion/overdoses. The report does not identify which substances killed the children.

Nine children died from firearm injuries out of 11 cases of injury reviewed by the panel. The panel reviewed 12 in the previous report.

The rate of cannabinoid exposure to children in Kentucky has increased 720% in the last five years. In 2020, there were five cases of cannabinoid ingestion or overdose. In 2024, there were 41.

The majority of physical abuse cases (76%) were almost fatal for the child victim.

There was a 31% increase in physical abuse cases reviewed by the panel: 55 for fiscal year 2024, up from 42 the previous year.

Parental refusal of Vitamin K shots is "increasingly common, often due to disinformation on social media and misunderstanding the risks involved," the panel reported, calling this trend "alarming."

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, giving babies Vitamin K has been the "standard of care" to prevent vitamin K deficiency bleeding since the 1960s. When a baby doesn't

# MESSENGER-INQUIRER

(USPS 341-660)

Distributed Tuesday through Saturday by the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer Inc. at 1401 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301.

Periodical postage paid at Owensboro, KY 42301; telephone 270-926-0123. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Messenger-Inquirer, P.O. Box 1480, Owensboro, KY 42302-1480.

**CIRCULATION SUBSCRIBER CUSTOMER SERVICE:** Call 270-926-0123 or (800) 633-2008. Business hours are 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you get an answering machine during non-business hours, leave your name, address, telephone number and tell us the purpose of the call.

Redelivery is available for missed or damaged papers inside Owensboro until 10 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday. Some limitations apply.

All mail subscriptions are payable in advance.

The Thanksgiving Day edition is included with all subscriptions and is billed at the Thanksgiving Day newsstand price.

**AUTOPAY**  
Have your subscription deducted monthly from your checking or savings account and SAVE!  
**Daily (Tue-Sat)** \$23.85/mo for 3 months  
**Daily (Tue-Fri)** \$16.50/mo for 3 months  
**Thu-Sat** \$14.30  
Your subscription will continue and we will charge you at the then regular rate, less any applicable credits, unless you cancel, which you can do at any time. After the promotional period ends, your rate may increase. This promotional offer is available only to new subscribers (have not subscribed in the past 90 days).

**CARRIER ROUTE RATES**  
**Daily (Tue-Sat)**  
52 Weeks 24 Weeks 12 Weeks 4 Weeks  
\$413.40 \$190.80 \$95.40 \$31.80  
Online access is available to all 7-day subscribers.

**Daily (Tue-Fri)**  
\$297.65 \$137.38 \$68.69 \$22.90  
**THU-SAT**  
\$248.04 \$114.48 \$57.24 \$19.08  
Weekend delivery includes the following bonus days: New Year's, Martin Luther King Day, January 23, April 17, May 22, Independence Day, July 10, August 28, October 23, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, December 18 and Christmas. An alternate may be selected if a holiday/bonus day falls on a weekend.

**MAIL RATES**  
(Mail delivery available only outside carrier delivery areas.)

**Daily (Tue-Fri)**  
**IN KY. & SO. INDIANA**  
52 Weeks 24 Weeks 12 Weeks 4 Weeks  
\$418.91 \$193.34 \$96.67 \$32.22

**OTHER STATES**  
\$424.42 \$195.89 \$97.94 \$32.65

**Daily (Tue-Fri)**  
**IN KY. & SO. INDIANA**  
\$303.16 \$139.92 \$69.96 \$23.32

**OTHER STATES**  
\$308.67 \$142.46 \$71.23 \$23.74

**SATURDAY ONLY**  
**IN KY. & SO. INDIANA**  
\$165.36 \$76.32 \$38.16 \$12.72

**OTHER STATES**  
\$181.90 \$83.95 \$41.98 \$13.99

**DELIVERY PROBLEMS?**  
If you are having difficulty receiving home delivery, call Customer Service at 270-926-0123 or (800) 633-2008. Redelivery is available in Owensboro and limited areas until 10 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday.  
Publisher Mike Weaver.....270-691-7285  
Executive Editor Don Wilkins.....270-691-7299  
Advertising Angela Mayes.....270-691-7239  
Circulation/Production Barry Carden.....270-691-7252

**ADVERTISING**  
To place a classified ad, call 270-926-0123 between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays. For retail advertising, call 926-0123 or (800) 633-2008 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

**NEWS INFORMATION**  
270-926-0123 or (800) 633-2008  
• News tips and comments on our coverage - Call Executive Editor Don Wilkins 270-691-7299.  
• Photo ideas - Call 270-691-7205.  
• Photo reprints - available online.  
• Sports tips and comments - Call Sports 270-691-7311.  
• To report sports results, call 270-691-7315.  
• Obituary information 270-691-7291.  
• Letters to the editor, tours - Call Corey Wilkerson 270-691-7291.  
• Weddings, engagements, anniversaries, calendar of events - Call Corey Wilkerson 270-691-7291.  
• To announce activities or events - Mail a news release or fact sheet in advance to our Community News Desk. Include your name and daytime phone number.  
• Reader submitted news - Call Corey Wilkerson 270-691-7291.

Printed in part on recycled newspaper  
© M-1 11