

NADIA

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they had never had a queen, which was scary coming in because I didn't know if I could hold it to a standard where I could be the first.

"I am so very thankful and I thank God that I was able to represent my school the best way I possibly could and bring that title home to LMU."

Smith is a rising junior working toward her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing and will begin her first year at LMU's Caylor School of Nursing in the fall.

She said her favorite part of the festival was seeing the hospitality of all the people in Pineville..

"Even though I am local, there are still a lot of people I don't know — there are so many people who come back to Pineville for the festival every year," Smith said. "No matter if it's your first time seeing someone or it's your 50th, they are so welcoming. I just love that southern hospitality of welcoming all of the candidates into their homes and how happy everyone is to be here and the connections you make with everyone."

During her speech on Sunday morning at the Queen's Breakfast, she told



JAY COMPTON/MIDDLESBORO NEWS

Nadia Layne Smith reacts to hearing the news she had been selected as the 2026 KMLF Queen.

the other candidates and escorts she would forever cherish their friendship.

"I hope each of you decide to come back every year after. At the beginning of this week we were told we would make friendships that would last a lifetime and you don't fully understand that until you get here," Smith said. "To Alex (Kincer from Georgetown College) and Emily (Cox from Lindsey Wilson): you all have

become my best friends and we made a pact that we would come back every year and stay at Pineville or at my house."

The queen's coronation was held Saturday afternoon at Pine Mountain State Resort Park's Laurel Cove Amphitheater. Gov. Andy Beshear was unable to attend, but he was represented by Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, who had the honor of crowning Smith as the queen.

"It is so great to be back in Pineville and I'm honored to be with you to celebrate one of Kentucky's oldest festivals, the Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival. This is a special tradition and I know it gets better every year," she said during the Governor's Luncheon before the coronation. "Today we get to see some of the brilliant, talented, beautiful women that make Kentucky's colleges and universities



JAY COMPTON/MIDDLESBORO NEWS

Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman crowns Nadia Layne Smith as the 2026 KMLF Queen.

so special. This festival reminds us of so many things that make eastern Kentucky so unique and so beautiful — this community, the hospitality, the food, the music, the tradition and so much more. This festival represents the best of the Commonwealth."

Other award winners were announced during Sunday's Queen's Breakfast. The 2026 KMLF Queen Miss Photogenic is Reese Wethington of the University of Louisville. Miss Congeniality is Carlie Michele England from Murray State University. Gabriel Gordillo, escort to Campbellsville

University candidate Alyssa Grace Walker, was named Best Escort.

Bell County Circuit Court Clerk Colby Slusher served as the Master of Ceremonies at the Queen's Coronation while pre-coronation entertainment was provided by Joanna Seiber Entertainment, who also performed the National Anthem as the Bell County High School JROTC color guard raised the flags at the start of the program. Shari Woods Knuckles closed the program by leading everyone in singing "My Old Kentucky Home."

PRIMARY

Continued from 1A

Derek "Fuzz" Jones 670 and Tone "Hobe" Tighe 311. Collett will face Democrat Jesse E. Adkins in the November General Election.

Incumbent Sheriff Mitch Williams and Coroner Jay Steele held off strong challenges in their respective primaries. Williams received 2598 votes to George "Tooter" Howard's 2259 while Steele received 2474 votes to edge challenger Ethan Warren

with 2410.

Both Williams and Steele will be unopposed in November.

Incumbent Eddie Saylor won the 1st Magisterial District race with 414 votes. Tim Partin received 238, Bert Marcum Jr. 227, Alan Lee 119, Clint Lonnie Shoffner 101, Chris Webb 81 and Johnny Thomas 57. Saylor will be unopposed in November.

Incumbent Donny Lefevers won the 2nd Magisterial District race with 433 votes. Jeremy Collett received 379,

Keith Allen Cox 287, James Griffin 76, Bruce Hendrickson 69, Joseph Arthur Jordan 41, Charles N Collett 26 and Michael Caldwell 25. Lefevers will run against Democrat Steve Brock in November.

Larry "Apple" Adkins won the race for the 3rd Magisterial District seat with 303 votes to Nicklaus Alan Shoffner's 230 and Ben Hatfield's 117.

Kevin Barnett narrowly took the 4th Magisterial District seat with 254 votes to Kenny Vanover's 248 and incumbent Glenn

Webb's 72.

Incumbent Joe Hammontree won the 5th Magisterial District race with 451 votes. Ronnie Fuson received 261 votes, John R. Trospen 220, Steven Robinson 85 and Donnie Sparks 83.

Adkins, Barnett and Hammontree will all be unopposed in November.

In the race for 2nd District Constable, David Lee Cox won with 520 votes while Robert Daniels received 448 and Tyler Lankford 301.

Middlesboro Mayor

Boone Bowling received 1089 votes in the primary. Challenger Michael Orr received 376 votes and Travis Moody 191.

Bowling and Orr will face off in November's General Election.

In the race for U.S. Senator, Bell County Republicans went with the rest of the state in voting for Andy Barr. Barr received 3071 votes in Bell County to Daniel Cameron's 982. Statewide Barr received 283,703 to Cameron's 144,548.

Barr will run against Democrat Charles Booker

in November. Booker won the state's Democratic primary with 155,487 votes to Amy McGrath's 119,234. McGrath received the most votes from Bell County Democrats with 338 to Booker's 227

Incumbent U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers easily won the 5th Congressional District Republican primary. He received 3800 votes in Bell County to Kevin Smith's 434. He'll face Democratic challenger Ned Pillersdorf in November.

Class	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Increase
Residential							
0-100,000 Gallons	\$6.8550	\$0.68550	\$9.4547	\$0.94547	\$2.5997	\$0.25997	37.92%
Over 100,000 Gallons	4.7300	0.47300	9.4547	0.94547	4.7247	0.47247	99.89%
Commercial							
0-100,000 Gallons	\$6.8550	\$0.68550	\$9.6242	\$0.96242	\$2.7692	\$0.27692	40.40%
Over 100,000 Gallons	4.7300	0.47300	9.6242	0.96242	4.8942	0.48942	103.47%
Industrial							
0-100,000 Gallons	\$6.8550	\$0.68550	\$8.5162	\$0.85162	\$1.6612	\$0.16612	24.23%
Over 100,000 Gallons	4.7300	0.47300	8.5162	0.85162	3.7862	0.37862	80.05%
Other Public Authority							
0-100,000 Gallons	\$6.8550	\$0.68550	\$7.8881	\$0.78881	\$1.0331	\$0.10331	15.07%
Over 100,000 Gallons	4.7300	0.47300	7.8881	0.78881	3.1581	0.31581	66.77%
Sales for Resale							
All Usage	\$2.4890	\$0.24890	\$8.7371	\$0.87371	\$6.2481	\$0.62481	251.03%
	Per 100 Gallons	Per 50 Gallons	Per 100 Gallons	Per 50 Gallons	Per 100 Gallons	Per 50 Gallons	% Change
Miscellaneous							
All Usage	\$0.00000	\$0.00000	\$0.47387	\$0.23694	\$0.47387	\$0.23694	New Rate
Fire Protection:							
	<u>Private Fire Line Size</u>		<u>Current Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Monthly Rate</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	
	2"		\$46.16	\$14.00	(\$32.16)	(69.67%)	
	4"		46.16	56.00	9.84	21.32%	
	6"		46.16	125.55	79.39	171.99%	
	8"		46.16	223.00	176.84	383.10%	
	10"		46.16	348.25	302.09	654.44%	
	12"		46.16	521.25	475.09	1,029.22%	
	14"		46.16	502.00	455.84	987.52%	
	16"		46.16	891.50	845.34	1,831.33%	
	Private Fire Hydrant		46.16	120.00	73.84	159.97%	
	Public Fire Hydrant		10.20	11.53	1.33	13.04%	
	Ambleside Private Fire Surcharge		4.59	4.59	0.00	0.00%	

Kentucky American Water has also proposed additions to its tariff to include a System Improvement Program surcharge that would apply to Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Other Public Authority, Sale for Resale, Public and Private Fire Service classifications for qualified infrastructure investments. This surcharge would be calculated annually based on forecasted qualified infrastructure costs and applied to each customer's monthly bill. Kentucky American Water is also proposing tariff revisions to (1) clarify its ability to inspect existing plumbing and (2) provide flexibility regarding the advance payment terms for private fire hydrants.

In the preceding paragraphs, "Black Mountain" refers to customers served by Black Mountain Utility District, as Kentucky American Water and Black Mountain have submitted a request to the Commission in Case No. 2026-00097 to transfer control of Black Mountain's assets to Kentucky American Water. Kentucky American Water is also including a request in this rate case regarding the valuation of the Black Mountain acquisition. "Livingston" refers to customers served by the City of Livingston, as the Commission approved the transfer of Livingston's assets to Kentucky American Water in Case No. 2025-00364. "Bell and Hickman Counties" refers to customers served by Water Service Company of Kentucky, Inc., as the Commission approved the transfer of Water Service's assets in those counties to Kentucky American Water in Case No. 2025-00171.

This application may be examined at the offices of Kentucky American Water located at 2300 Richmond Road in Lexington, Kentucky.

This application may also be examined at the offices of the Public Service Commission located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm or on the Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov>.

Comments regarding this application may be submitted by mail to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort KY 40602; or through its website at <http://psc.ky.gov>.

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Kentucky American Water, but the Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice.

Any person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, which establishes the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party.

If the Public Service Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the providing of this notice, the Public Service Commission may take final action on the application.