

ARH doctor working to help youth identify problems in our region

By Pamela Caudill
ARH Communications

HARLAN – When Dr. Tim Jenkel gives a patient his personal cell phone number, it’s more than an act of accessibility—it’s a reflection of the trust he believes should exist between a surgeon and the people he serves.

“If you trust me to perform your procedure, I trust you to have my cell phone number,” he said.

In just a short time since arriving at Harlan ARH Hospital, Dr. Jenkel has done more

than build a busy surgical practice. He has expanded access to care, earned a reputation for putting patients first and become deeply invested in the future of the community he now calls home.

“Dr. Jenkel practices medicine the way it was meant to be, especially in a smaller community. He sees his patients as neighbors,” said Joseph Horton, CEO of Harlan ARH Hospital. “He didn’t have to come to Harlan County. He chose to, and he is choosing to become part of the community. We are fortunate to have him.”

Dr. Jenkel brings advanced surgical training and a wide range of services to Harlan, including emergency and trauma surgery, hernia repairs, gallbladder removal, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, col-

orectal surgery, endoscopy and dialysis access, helping local patients receive care closer to home.

His arrival has expanded access to specialized general surgery services, allowing more patients to receive advanced surgical care close to home instead of traveling outside the region.

But for Jenkel, choosing Harlan was about more than medicine.

His grandfather and uncle were underground coal miners in Illinois and Indiana, giving him a personal connection to the values he sees throughout Appalachia.

“I can identify with blue-collar, hard-working people,” he said. “I chose to leave New England and come to a community where access to surgical care is important and where I felt my skills could benefit the community.”

“I want to thank all the members of this community who have welcomed me and put their trust in me to be their surgeon,” Dr. Jenkel said.

That trust, he says, goes both ways — and it shapes the way he practices medicine.

Beyond giving patients his personal cell phone number, Jenkel reviews CT scans with them in his office, uses photos and whiteboards to explain their care, and believes taking time to educate patients is just as important as performing their surgery.

He has also listened to what his patients need outside the exam room. After polling patients on social media, he expanded clinic access by adding evening hours from 5 to 9 p.m. on

two Thursdays each month.

“My goal is simple,” he said. “Provide high-quality surgical care close to home in a way that works for real schedules and real lives.”

Outside the operating room, Jenkel has become just as invested in strengthening the community he now calls home.

He has sponsored local sports teams, funded field trips for elementary students and looks for opportunities to encourage young people to become invested in Harlan County’s future.

When Evarts Elementary School officials thanked him publicly for helping fund a Dollywood field trip, he responded, “Happy to help. These kids deserve every opportunity to get out, learn and experience more. The thank you post from the school lifted my spirit on a tough day.”

His support stems from his belief that today’s students will become tomorrow’s community leaders.

“To me, youth are the future of the area,” he said. “I want to see them interested in bettering the area and not feel they need to move away. I understand this takes investment in the area, which I am trying to help provide in the small way I can.”

He believes extracurricular activities help build confidence, leadership skills and stronger connections to the places they call home.

“Supporting young people in our community is important to me because every opportunity we provide can help them grow, build confidence and discover what they are capable of,” he said.

This summer, Jenkel is taking that commitment a step further by launching the Harlan County Community Impact Challenge, a student competition designed to empower young people to identify local problems, develop practical solutions and make a measurable difference in their community.

The tagline captures the goal: Your Idea. Our Community. A Better Future.

“The idea behind the challenge is simple,” he said. “I want young people invested in the future of Harlan County.”

Students will submit proposals addressing local needs, complete with implementation plans, budgets and measures of success. Projects may focus on beautification, recreation, education, tourism, environmental initiatives or programs benefiting youth or seniors.

Full details will be released later this month on Jenkel’s professional Facebook page, with winners announced in January 2027. Because he is still relatively new to Harlan County, Jenkel said a panel of local community leaders will evaluate the proposals.

“The future of this area depends on investing in the next generation of leaders, innovators and problem solvers,” he said. “This challenge will help students learn how to take an idea from concept to reality and hopefully encourage a sense of investment back into Harlan County.”

Colonel Sanders Collection Auction tops \$300,000

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

SHELBYVILLE, Ky. – The historic auction of Colonel Harland Sanders’ personal collection generated just shy of \$300,000 in sales, with more than 100 artifacts sold across 74 lots to collectors, historians, entrepreneurs, and fans around the world.

Held July 28 at the Claudia Sanders Dinner House in Shelbyville, the auction attracted more than 500 bidders, both in person and online. The collection, preserved by the Settle family since their 1974 purchase of Blackwood Hall and the Claudia Sanders Dinner House directly from Colonel and Claudia Sanders, offered rare personal artifacts spanning Sanders’ life, business career, and legacy.

The top-selling item was Col. Sanders’ Personal Handwritten Datebook and Working Planner, which sold for \$30,000. Far more than a simple appointment book, the planner served as Sanders’ personal working notebook in 1964, documenting observations, expenses, travel details, meals, business notes, and other aspects of his daily activities.

A handwritten page in the planner, listing eleven ingredients and their associated measurements, later attracted significant public attention, becoming the subject of widespread media coverage and legal

review. Regardless of interpretation, the page contributed to the planner’s notoriety and historical significance within the broader story of Colonel Sanders and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Other top-selling items of Sanders included:

•His Kentucky Colonel Commission Certificate (1955), \$23,000.

•His Personal Mondia Stellaris Automatic Wristwatch, \$20,000.

•His Personal Mirromatic Pressure Cooker, \$11,500.

•A U.S. Patent Office Publication “Process of Producing Fried Chicken Under Pressure,” \$10,000.

•His Personal Bow Tie and Suspenders, \$8,000.

•His Personal Masonic Ring with Inscription, 10k Gold, \$8,000.

“The response exceeded our expectations,” said Bill Menish, lead auctioneer for the sale. “Collectors, historians, franchise operators, and Colonel Sanders enthusiasts recognized that this wasn’t simply a memorabilia auction—it was an opportunity to acquire artifacts that remained together through an extraordinary chain of ownership.

While the memorabilia has been sold, sealed bids are still being accepted for the purchase of the historic Claudia Sanders Restaurant, Blackwood Hall, and associated business assets. Bids will be accepted through midnight on July 31, 2026.

Your COMMUNITY Your CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 Come & Play Time: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com Crew412 Youth: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com FiA: 6-7 p.m. Harrogate City Park, 150 Hwy 63. Free. www.facebook.com Free mobile healthcare clinic for uninsured people!: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Northside Community Center, 341 Junior Dalton Lane. www.graingercochamber.org Phoenix Rising: Out of the Ashes of Addiction: 6-7 p.m. The Shelter at Barbourville City Park, 117 Johnson Ln. Free.	3rd St Williamsburg. www.whitleylibrary.org Phoenix Rising: Out of the Ashes of Addiction: 6-7 p.m. The Shelter at Barbourville City Park, 117 Johnson Ln. Free. SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 Bethany's Hope: 6-9 p.m. 850 Riverview Road. Free. www.eventbrite.com Karaoke 6pm - 10pm: 6-10 p.m. Lakeside Marina, 110 Bluff Village Rd. SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 Capitani Classic: 7:45-11:45 p.m. Knoxville Raceway, Raceway Drive. www.facebook.com Dockside Dip & Dye: 2-3 p.m. Lakeside Marina, 110 Bluff Village Rd. MONDAY, AUGUST 10 Food Pantry: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com Mexican Mondays Men's Fellowship: 5:30-7 p.m. Santa Fe, 1885 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 Book Club: 7-8 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 Come & Play Time: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com Crew412 Youth: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com FiA: 6-7 p.m. Harrogate City Park, 150 Hwy 63. Free. www.facebook.com NOS Energy Drink Knoxville Nationals presented by Casey's: 6 p.m. Knoxville Raceway, Raceway Drive. www.facebook.com NOS Energy Drink Knoxville Nationals presented by Casey's: 7 p.m. Knoxville Raceway, Raceway Drive. www.facebook.com	com Phoenix Rising: Out of the Ashes of Addiction: 6-7 p.m. The Shelter at Barbourville City Park, 117 Johnson Ln. Free. THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 Bibles & Basketball: 7-8:30 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com Story Hour: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Harlan County Public Library , 107 North 3rd Street. Free. www.harlandcountylibraries.org FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 How to Seduce at Friday Events - Dating for Singles - Waynesville: 7-8 p.m. Middlesboro. www.eventbrite.com Ms. Betty's Toddler Storytime: 10-11:30 a.m. Whitley County Public Library, 285 S 3rd St Williamsburg. www.whitleylibrary.org Phoenix Rising: Out of the Ashes of Addiction: 6-7 p.m. The Shelter at Barbourville City Park, 117 Johnson Ln. Free. SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 Cumberland Mountain Music Show: 7-9 p.m. Cumberland Gap Convention Center, 601 Colwyn St. \$8.00 - \$10.00. www.cumberlandmountainmusic.com Karaoke 6pm - 10pm: 6-10 p.m. Lakeside Marina, 110 Bluff Village Rd. Lincoln Memorial University Women's Soccer vs Milligan University - Exhibition: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. lmurailsplitters.com MONDAY, AUGUST 17 \$5,000 GTD PRIZE POOL FREEROLL FREEZEOUT TOURNAMENT MONDAY AUG 17TH 2026 6PM E.T.: 6-11 p.m. 13475 Cumberland Gap Pkwy. \$0.00 - \$5.00. www.facebook.com Arts in the Gap Gallery: The Sunday Table: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Paul V. Hamilton Center for the Arts, Art Gallery, calendar.lmunet.edu Food Pantry: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy.	graceonthehill.churchcenter.com Mexican Mondays Men's Fellowship: 5:30-7 p.m. Santa Fe, 1885 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com TUESDAY, AUGUST 18 Arts in the Gap Gallery: The Sunday Table: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Paul V. Hamilton Center for the Arts, Art Gallery, calendar.lmunet.edu WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19 Arts in the Gap Gallery: The Sunday Table: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Paul V. Hamilton Center for the Arts, Art Gallery, calendar.lmunet.edu Come & Play Time: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com Crew412 Youth: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com FiA: 6-7 p.m. Harrogate City Park, 150 Hwy 63. Free. www.facebook.com Lincoln Memorial University Men's Soccer vs Young Harris College - Exhibition: 3-5 p.m. lmurailsplitters.com Phoenix Rising: Out of the Ashes of Addiction: 6-7 p.m. The Shelter at Barbourville City Park, 117 Johnson Ln. Free. THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 8/20 11:00 AM cumberlands Women's Soccer vs Milligan University: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. cumberlands patriots.com Arts in the Gap Gallery: The Sunday Table: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Paul V. Hamilton Center for the Arts, Art Gallery, calendar.lmunet.edu Bibles & Basketball: 7-8:30 p.m. Grace on the Hill, 1632 Cumberland Falls Hwy. graceonthehill.churchcenter.com Clay Chip and Dip Bowl Workshop at The Winery: 6-8 p.m. The Winery at Seven Springs Farm, \$54.48. www.eventbrite.com Story Hour: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Harlan County Public Library , 107 North 3rd Street. Free. www.harlandcountylibraries.org
---	--	---	--

Do you have an event you would like published?

Please go to our website www.middlesboronews.com and click 'Calendar', there you can click on 'Add Event' for free inclusion in the online calendar.