

MIKE

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he advocated for student success, supported economic development initiatives, and worked tirelessly to strengthen the quality of life across the region.

Prior to the tournament, participants heard from several of the event's presenting sponsors, who reflected on the importance of supporting students and investing in Southeast Kentucky's future. Representative Adam Bowling, speaking on behalf of the Bowling Family and as Mike Bowling's son, shared memories of his father's commitment to education, community service, and regional progress. Dr. Neil Barry offered remarks on behalf of Coca-Cola Bottling Company and a close friend of the family, and Dustin Milaway, CEO of Y-12 Federal Credit Union, also addressed participants. Together, they highlighted the value of community partnerships in creating opportunities for local students.



Members of the Bowling family pose together at the Mike Bowling Memorial Golf Tournament, celebrating a legacy of perseverance, service, and educational opportunity for future generations.

The tournament featured 27 teams, with The Prescription Shoppe claiming first place. In a generous show of support, the team donated its prize winnings back to the Mike Bowling Golf Classic.

Golfers also participated in several on-course contests sponsored by local businesses. Michael Wilson won the Longest Drive competition, while Bethany Evans claimed Longest Female Drive, with both receiving 30-ounce YETI Travel Mugs donated by Tractor Supply. Marcia Yeary captured the

Longest Putt title and received a 20-ounce YETI Tumbler, also donated by Tractor Supply. Chris Harris won the Closest to the Pin contest and received a \$100 Walmart gift card.

The Southeast Education Foundation shared its appreciation to the tournament's presenting supporters, including The Bowling Family, Y-12 Federal Credit Union, and Coca-Cola Bottling Company, along with the many businesses and individuals who sponsored teams, holes, carts, and food;

volunteered; and contributed to the event's success.

The foundation also shared a special thank you to Ed Harris, Chairman of the Southeast Education Foundation, whose leadership and dedication have helped strengthen its impact and advance opportunities for Southeast students. Thanks were also extended to the foundation Board of Directors, the Middlesboro Golf Committee, Maintenance & Operations, Matt Warren for crafting the tournament trophies, the



Tournament champions, team Village Shoppes, proudly hold their custom 3D-printed trophies following the Mike Bowling Memorial Golf Tournament. The trophies were created by Matt Warren in the SKCTC Ideas Center. Winners from left to right Tyler Harris, Garrett Bradley, Dick Nevils and Matt Gann.

Advancement & Public Relations team, and the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make the tournament possible.

Funds raised through the Mike Bowling Golf Classic support emergency student assistance and other initiatives that help students at the Middlesboro Campus overcome barriers, complete their education, and enter the workforce.

"The generosity of our sponsors, golfers, and community partners makes a lasting difference

in the lives of our students," said Johnson. "Their investment helps ensure that students throughout our region have access to the education and training needed to build brighter futures."

The Southeast Education Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College, securing private support to enhance educational opportunities and strengthen the college's impact throughout the region.

FULL

Continued from 1A

young people. He helped build Bell County Wrestling from the ground up, while leaving an even greater legacy through the lives of the athletes and students he influenced.

Casey's Rides will bring carnival fun to downtown throughout the weekend.

Unlimited ride sessions will be offered Friday from 6–10 p.m. and Saturday from 2–6 p.m. and 6–10 p.m.

Advance armband tickets are \$20 and may be exchanged for one armband valid for unlimited rides during one session. Height restrictions may apply.

Beyond the scheduled events, visitors can spend

the weekend exploring festival vendors, food, downtown businesses and other activities throughout the festival footprint.

The festival is designed not only as a celebration, but also as an opportunity to showcase Middlesboro and support the local businesses, organizations, artists and community partners that call the region home.

The 2026 Cumberland Mountain Fall Festival is led by President Elizabeth Madon, Vice President Anthony Maxwell, Secretary Payton Elliott and Treasurer Emily Cole, alongside festival committees, volunteers, sponsors, downtown businesses and community partners.

Support from sponsors and community partners

helps make the Cumberland Mountain Fall Festival possible and allows the organization to continue building an event centered around community, Appalachian heritage and Downtown Middlesboro.

Organizers invite residents from across Bell County, the Cumberland Gap region and beyond to make plans to spend October 2nd and 3rd in

downtown Middlesboro, Whether visitors come for the music, wrestling, carnival rides, history, football, food or simply an opportunity to reconnect with their community, the 2026 Cumberland Mountain Fall Festival is intended to offer something for everyone.

Special called Bell County Board of Education meeting Oct. 7

Submitted

The Bell County Board of Education will convene in a Special Called Meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at the Bell County Area Technology Center, 9828 US Highway 25e, 2nd Floor, Pineville, Kentucky.

The meeting will be held via video teleconference. The primary location where all members can be seen and heard and the public may attend in accordance with KRS 61.840 is the Bell County Board of Education Administration Office, 9828 US Highway

25e, 2nd Floor, Pineville, Kentucky with the anticipation that four board members will be present and one board member will participate via video teleconference as authorized under KRS 61.826.

AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order, establish quorum, moment of silence, Pledge of Allegiance
2. Set FY27 Tax Rate
3. Approve Shortened School Day for Students
4. Approve Pay Application(s) and/or Direct Purchase Order(s)
5. Adjourn

Apparel collaboration puts instruments in hands of Appalachian youth

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

MOREHEAD – Two organizations with deep ties to Appalachia's music and outdoor culture are teaming up to help put more instruments into the hands of young musicians.

Can'd Aid and Eastern Kentucky-based apparel brand New Frontier launched the Can'd Aid x New Frontier collection on Thursday, with 100 percent of proceeds benefiting Can'd Aid's Instruments for Change program.

Designed in Eastern Kentucky, the collection includes two original T-Shirt designs and two hats offered in multiple colors, including New Frontier's signature camouflage. "My Grass Is Blue" gives a playful nod to Kentucky's bluegrass roots, while "Support Local Artists & Live Music" celebrates the musicians, venues and communities that keep live music thriving.

"New Frontier is deeply rooted in Appalachian culture and has built a brand people are proud to wear, and now that pride

can also make a difference. Every shirt or hat sold helps us put instruments and resources into the hands of young people who deserve the opportunity to experience the power of making music," said Diana Hicks, Founder and Executive Director of Can'd Aid.

Founded in Morehead, Kentucky, by brothers Joshua and Jared Ravenscraft, New Frontier creates purpose-driven apparel inspired by the culture, landscapes and people of Appalachia. Giving back has long been part of the brand's identity, including its Appalachia Strong & Kentucky Strong giveback collections helping their neighbors in need.

Can'd Aid has also built deep connections throughout Appalachia through Instruments for Change and its network of Tunes Ambassadors. The nonprofit works alongside nationally recognized musicians, donors and community partners to expand access to music education in under-resourced schools and youth programs through new instrument donations,



"The Creekers" band.

Music Teacher Grants and hands-on music experiences.

Recent efforts have brought music resources to communities throughout Kentucky and Appalachia, including work alongside Tyler Childers and the Hickman Holler Appalachian Relief Fund to support Title I schools across the region.

Through Instruments for Change, Can'd Aid works to expand access to music as a source of creativity, confidence and connection for young people. The program provides new instruments and flexible

Music Teacher Grants to under-resourced music programs across the country.

The collection will be available at newfrontierbrand.com/collections/cand-aid and New Frontier's Morehead shop – wholesale locations will be added throughout the year. The ongoing collaboration will continue to support Can'd Aid's work to provide young people with instruments, resources and opportunities to discover the power of music.

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Nobody covers school sports like we do! From game schedules, highlights and players to watch, to resources for students athletes and their parents, we're on the field to keep you in the game and give our community's kids the recognition they deserve!

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