VOLUNTEERS

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Often, volunteers do much more than distribute food. They offer a listening ear, encouragement and personal connection to individuals and families facing difficult circumstances.

Every volunteer contributes something unique, making it impossible to recognize them all individually. However, one volunteer deserves special recognition for his dedication and service.

For the past two years, Ivan Martinez has faithfully served as the pantry's translator. He volunteers every Monday and Thursday, helping staff and volunteers communicate effectively with members of the Hispanic community. His presence has strengthened relationships, improved service and helped ensure that language is never a barrier to receiving assistance. When Ivan is unavailable, the pantry often relies on translation apps to communicate. His commitment and willingness to serve have made a tremendous difference for both the pantry and the neighbors it serves.

The Sterling Community Food Coalition extends its sincere appreciation to all volunteers whose time, talents and compassion make it possible to provide food, hope and support to our community each week.

HOME TOURS EVENT

To help fund its ongoing operations, SCFC will host its fourth Annual Home Tours Event Sunday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Ticket holders will gain access to a curated selection of local homes decorated for the season. The tour begins at Ascension Episcopal Church and includes stops at the featured residences, as well as a hospitality break at the Montgomery County Library for snacks, tour maps and historical information about the homes.

Tickets are $25 each, or $100 for a bundle of five, and can be purchased online via Zeffy at:

zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-holiday-home-tours-2.

STANDOFF

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When Wilson approached the driver's side window of the Jeep, the citation alleges the deputy observed in plain view weaponry, ammunition and a black revolver nylon holster.

Updike was removed from the vehicle and detained without incident, the citation states.

Wilson states in the citation he asked Updike if there was a firearm inside the vehicle to go with the boxes of bullets and numerous magazines that could reportedly be seen in plain view.

Updike allegedly stated there was a pistol, but claimed it was not his, according to the citation.

In the passenger floorboard, the citation claims Wilson located a black pistol resembling a Glock.

The pistol was allegedly fully loaded with one in the chamber.

Updike was read his Miranda rights and claimed the firearm belonged to a friend of his and was not his, it notes in the citation.

The Advocate previously reported that Updike was charged after engaging authorities in an approximate seven-hour standoff Aug. 26 at the same home.

During the standoff, authorities alleged Updike threatened his wife and neighbors while armed. Several firearms were reportedly located at the residence, Sheriff David Charles said previously.

The wife alleged Updike had been up all night drinking alcohol, the complaint warrant claimed.

She reportedly fled the scene and advised that while she was leaving Updike was allegedly bringing ammunition up from the basement of the residence, the complaint warrant claimed.

When authorities arrived, Updike allegedly refused contact and barricaded himself inside, Charles previously said. The sheriff's office was assisted at the scene by the special response team of the Kentucky State Police.

Updike was initially charged with third-degree terroristic threatening.

A felony possession of cocaine charge was added after his wife claimed she found suspected cocaine inside his wallet when she returned home, according to citations previously obtained by the Advocate.

The case is pending in Circuit Court.

BLIFFEN

Continued from Page A1

manifesting extreme indifference to human life, he wantonly engaged in conduct which created grave risk of death to another person and thereby caused the death of Robert Sosnowski."

Sosnowski, 41, of Flemingsburg, died Nov. 2 from injuries suffered in the accident.

He was treated at UK Medical Center for injuries sustained in the accident on Ky. 11 North (7200 block of Maysville Road).

Montgomery County Sheriff David Charles said the head-on collision was reported at 5:27 a.m. Oct. 24.

Charles said the accident occurred in the emergency lane on the west side of the roadway about a quarter of a mile from the Bath/Montgomery line.

Based upon investigation, Charles said it appeared Bliffen crossed over two lanes of traffic and struck Sosnowski. Sosnowski reportedly attempted to avoid the collision by moving into the emergency lane.

The sheriff called the incident a "needless tragedy."

Bliffen initially was charged with attempted murder, but the sheriff later said investigators were coordinating with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to upgrade the attempted murder charge to murder.

Brittany Sosnowski, wife of Robert Sosnowski, told the Advocate her husband was on his way to work the morning of the collision. She and Robert had recently fulfilled a lifelong dream of purchasing a farm, where they care for more than 140 animals, according to GoFundMe donation campaign that was organized following the accident.

A uniform citation previously obtained by the Advocate claimed Bliffen was coming from the direction of Mt. Sterling headed towards Sharpsburg. He allegedly fled the scene on foot, jumped multiple fences and went through a creek following the collision.

Bliffen was later taken into custody on Rogers Mill Road.

The citation alleged open alcohol containers could be observed in Bliffen's vehicle. During a recorded interview, Bliffen allegedly admitted to leaving the scene, crossing the center line "because he wanted to hurt himself and drinking alcohol earlier in the night."

The Advocate previously reported that a mental health warrant was also obtained as well as a search warrant for a blood sample, which was sent to the lab for examination.

Det. Dalton Hayes served as the witness before the grand jury.

Bliffen is being represented by Mt. Sterling attorney Ben Shields.

A celebration of life was held for Sosnowski Nov. 7 at Hutton Funeral Home in Hillsboro.

An indictment is a formal accusation of a crime, but does not establish guilt.

Bliffen is booked in the Montgomery County Regional Jail on a $75,000 cash bond.

Rumpke collection for holiday

Rumpke Waste & Recycling will continue its normal service schedule on Thanksgiving Day this year.

Rumpke is reminding its customers to place bins at the curb the night before their scheduled collection, as collection times may vary.

"We understand the holidays can be hectic, and we're here to make cleanup simple," said Kevin Hall, Rumpke communications manager. "For fried turkeys, please remember to solidify any leftover cooking oil before throwing it out. Freezing the oil or mixing it with an absorbent material like cat litter will ensure safe and proper disposal."

Hall also highlighted the importance of recycling.

"Recycling is a great way to reduce waste, especially during the holidays," he said. "Common items like steel and aluminum cans, cardboard boxes and plastic bottles are all recyclable, but remember that aluminum roasting pans and pie pans do not go into the recycling containers."

RUMPKE

Continued from Page A1

collection.

The bulk fee would decrease from $44 a day to $15 a day and the gate fee would drop from $69 to $60 under the proposed amendment.

Rumpke has also agreed to conduct litter pickup along Levee Road one day per month. Rumpke would maintain its current odor control efforts as part of the proposed amendment.

The amendment is available for the public to review in Montgomery County Judge-Executive Chris Haddix's Office as well as Solid Waste Coordinator Donny Pennington's Office, both in the Courthouse Annex.

The deadline to submit written comments is Dec. 18. They can be sent either by mail to Montgomery County Solid Waste Coordinator, 44 W, Main St., or by email to **donny.pennington@ky.gov**.

There will also be a public hearing 5 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Montgomery County Health and Civic Center to accept verbal or written comments on the proposed plan amendment.

It is not necessary to serve time to speak in advance of he hearing, according to a public notice published in the Advocate.

The notice says reasonable time limits may be imposed to ensure everyone who wishes to speak has an opportunity to be heard.

Responses to comments received will be provided to all commenters within 15 days of the close of the comment period and the Montgomery County Fiscal Court, will, after consideration of those comments, determine whether to amend the plan as proposed, according to the notice.

If approved, the amendment will be incorporated into future plan updates required by state law, the notice says.

Haddix encourages residents to make their views known.

Camargo launches live-streaming camera

The city of Camargo has a new resource.

In partnership with Ryan Hall, Y'all, Montgomery County Fire/EMS and Montgomery County Emergency Management, the city of Camargo has launched a live-streaming camera.

You can view the live feed here:

https://hazcams.com/station/camargo-ky-us-001

or from the city's website: **https://camargo.ky.gov/** just click on the link: Live Camargo, KY Weather Cam

"This tool will help our residents and first responders stay better informed during severe weather and other emergencies. It complements Camargo's storm siren, the only one in Montgomery County, giving the community an extra way to monitor conditions when warnings are issued," a release said.

"We encourage everyone to bookmark the link and share it with friends and family. Stay safe, Camargo," the release added.

—Information provided by Clayton Neal, Mayor of Camargo



Ruth Hunt Candies

OVER 100 YEARS SINCE 1921

Be one of the first 100 customers to shop in-store on Small Business Saturday, November 28th, 2026, to receive a FREE UK Snowman figure and a FREE Blue Monday!

Starting Thanksgiving week, customers can also enter their name for a chance to win a Ruth Hunt Gift Basket, valued at $100.

Visit us at 550 N. Maysville Rd. Mt. Sterling or give us a call at 1-800-927-0302.

25th Annual

FREE

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2026

DELIVERY STARTS AT 10:00 AM
DINE IN STARTS AT 11:00 AM
CARRY OUT 12:30-1:00 PM OR UNITL FOOD RUNS OUT
(LIMIT 2 MEALS PER PERSON)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH & CIVIC CENTER
108 EAST LOCUST STREET, MT. STERLING, KY

FESTIVITIES START AT 9:00 AM WITH COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
MIRANDA CROUCH (859) 274-2994

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