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APPALACHIAN

NEWS-EXPRESS

# OBITUARIES

February 3-5, 2026 • Page 6A

## Gloria Damron

Gloria Damron, 84, of Long Fork of Virgie, died Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at UK Good Samaritan Hospital in Lexington.

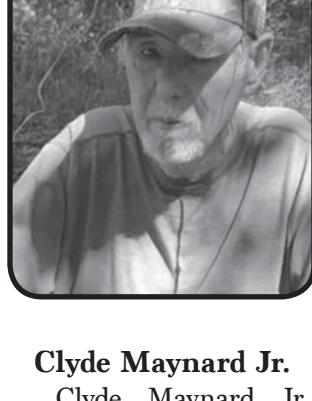
Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by the Hall and Jones Funeral Home of Virgie.

The guestbook may be signed at [www.hallandjones.com](http://www.hallandjones.com).

el with Pastor Opie Ray Harris officiating. Honoring her wishes, cremation will take place following the funeral.

Arrangements are under the direction of Jones and West Funeral Home of Phelps.

The guestbook may be signed online at [www.joneswestfh.com](http://www.joneswestfh.com).



## Samuel Dotson

Samuel Ray Dotson, 69, of Carlisle, died Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at Pikeville Medical Center.

Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 3, in the Jones and West Funeral Home chapel with James Elvis Blankschhip officiating. Burial will follow in the Dotson Cemetery in Phelps.

Arrangements are under the direction of Jones and West Funeral Home of Phelps.

The guestbook may be signed online at [www.joneswestfh.com](http://www.joneswestfh.com).

## Clyde Maynard Jr.

Clyde Maynard Jr., 79, of Varney, died Friday, Jan. 30, 2026, at Pikeville Nursing and Rehab Center in Pikeville.

He was born in Pike County, Sunday, Aug. 18, 1946, a son of the late Clyde Sr. and Lorraine Stanley Maynard.

He was a retired plumber and a member of the Heenon Church of Christ.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one daughter, Wendy Maynard; and four sisters, Teresa Hensley, Wanda Lou Maynard, Jean McFall and Faye Belstidge.

He leaves to mourn his passing one son, Jason Maynard (Elizabeth), of Pikeville; one daughter, Tonya Maynard, of Pikeville; four grandchildren, Carson, Nolan and Annie Maynard and Hailey Corum; three brothers, Donald Maynard, of Varney, Scotty Maynard and Kenneth Maynard, both of Virginia; four sisters, Sue Lowe, of Colorado, Diane Carter, of Varney, Connie Williamson, of Michigan, and Tina Robey, of Virginia; and a host of other relatives and friends.

He will be sadly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 3, in the Community Funeral Home chapel with Marshall Stanley officiating. Burial will follow in the Maynard/Stanley Cemetery, Right Fork of Brushy Road.

Arrangements are under the direction of Community Funeral Home of Zebulon.

The guestbook may be signed at [www.communityfuneralky.com](http://www.communityfuneralky.com).

*This is a paid obituary.*



## Daryl Ratliff

Daryl Edward Rat-

liff, 91, of Pikeville, died Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026, at Pikeville Medical Center.

He was born in McAndrews, July 28, 1934, the son of the late Phil and Gertrude Deskins Ratliff.

He retired as director of the Department of Labor and served as office manager for 35 years for the Social Security Office; was a graduate of Pikeville College and Morehead State University; served as a former president of Pikeville Kiwanis Club; was a veteran of the United States Air Force; and was a faithful member of the First Christian Church of Pikeville.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, James Richard Ratliff, John Talmadge Ratliff and Ferrell Clayton Ratliff.

He is survived by his wife, Alice Faye Stephenson Ratliff; two sons, James B. Ratliff (Melissa), of Nicholasville, and Philip Q. Ratliff (Tammy), of Georgetown; and one daughter, Ashley Davis (Tristan), of Raccoon. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, Tyler Ratliff (Ashley), Chris Ratliff (Megan), Will Ratliff (Brannah), Peyton Ratliff, Margot Davis, Lynette Davis and Meredith Davis; four great-grandchildren, Lila Ratliff, Theo Ratliff, Matthew Ratliff and Clara Ratliff; his special caregiver, Krissy Kimball; and his right-hand man, Billy Flanary.

A celebration of life service will be held at 12:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 6, at the Pikeville First Christian Church on Chloe Road, Pikeville.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of J.W. Call Funeral Home of Pikeville.

The guestbook may be signed online at [www.jwcallfuneralhome.com](http://www.jwcallfuneralhome.com).

*This is a paid obituary.*

## Helena Tackett

Helena Tackett, 74, of Turkey Pen, died Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, at her residence.

Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later by the Hall and Jones Funeral Home of Virgie.

The guestbook may be signed at [www.hallandjones.com](http://www.hallandjones.com).



## Jennifer Waddell

Jennifer Lynn Adams Waddell, 72, of Raccoon, died Friday, Jan. 30, 2026,

at Pikeville Medical Center, Pikeville.

She was born in Pikeville, Friday, Oct. 30, 1953, a daughter of the late Thomas and Ruth Ramey Adams.

She was a member of the Zebulon Church of Christ.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel Dillon; one grandson DJ; and one brother, Tommy Adams.

She is survived by her

three sons, Daniel Thomas Dillon, of Sidney, Matthew Claude Dillon (Erica), of Raccoon, and Andrew Charles Dillon, of Raccoon; two daughters, Molie Ann Dillon, of Lower Johns Creek, Pikeville, and Amanda Rosa Craig, of Grethel; 14 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; two sisters; Carolyn Runyon, of Milledgeville, Ga., and Heidi Kilgore, of Shelia; and a host of other relatives and friends.

She will be sadly

## WHITAKER

*Continued from Page 5A*

Lawmakers can fix unclear language, suggest improvements and think about unintended consequences — problems that might happen even if they were not planned. By carefully reviewing bills and listening to others, committees help ensure laws are fair, effective and work as intended for the people they serve.

Committee meetings are held in the Capitol Annex and are open to the public. They are also livestreamed on the legislature's YouTube Channel, [@LRCCCommitteeMeetings](http://@LRCCCommitteeMeetings). Here are a few examples of the bills that cleared legislative committees during the last week of January:

HB 4 would define and criminalize behavior commonly referred to as "grooming." Under provisions of HB 4, grooming refers to the manipulative and deceptive process by which a predator builds a relationship with a vulnerable person, such as a child, to gain their trust and access for abuse or exploitation.

HB 139 would update and strengthen

Kentucky's election laws to improve voter list accuracy, election security and transparency while preserving voter access. The bill would refine voter registration maintenance procedures by using reliable data sources, clarify rules for inactive voters and enhance record-keeping and public inspection requirements.

HB 140 would re-

quire the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) to conduct a quality assurance check six months after the completion of each highway marking project or other highway paint application.

HB 164 would modernize how state law defines hearing aids and increases the amount covered by both public and private health insurance plans from \$1,400 to \$2,500. The measure also includes standards for services offered in a network required by an insurer or plan administrator.

HB 169 would remove BMI, more commonly known as body mass index, from treatment standards used by

health insurance plans marketed in Kentucky, ensuring that care decisions are based on clinical need rather than an arbitrary numerical threshold. Instead, the bill outlines factors such as eating behaviors and need for support interventions that should be used to determine the medical necessity of treatment.

HB 189 would prohibit a person from sitting, kneeling, reclining, standing, or remaining physically stationary in any portion of a state-maintained right-of-way that is not designated for pedestrian use, with a few exceptions. Violators would be fined between \$20 and \$100 for each offense as outlined in Kentucky law.

HB 276 would en-

through new industrial investment, and reduce long-term disposal costs that currently squeeze budgets. For many rural counties and small cities, that difference matters. It can mean more resources for roads, public safety, emergency response, and basic services — without constantly asking taxpayers to pay more for a system that delivers nothing but higher costs.

When communities reduce reliance on landfilling and support recovery-based development, they can help create new revenue streams tied to local waste flows, expand the local tax base

sure that local governments cannot outright prohibit residents from keeping a small number of backyard chickens on residential property. The measure would allow individuals to keep up to six hens for personal egg production or educational purposes while continuing to give local governments authority to adopt reasonable health and safety regulations.

HB 398 would clarify existing law to ensure the costs of decommissioning coal-fired plants can be recovered throughout the life of the plant, rather than at the end of the facility's life after misinterpretation by the Public Service Commission.

Before I finish, I would like to take a moment to recognize the road crews, first responders, emergency management and all who helped in the days after Winter Storm Fern hit Kentucky. While we fared better than other states, it was a massive hit of ice, sleet, snow, freezing rain and dangerously low temperatures. Winter is far from over, but it does look like we are getting back on our feet after this storm.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at, 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at, [Mitichum.Whitaker@kylegislature.gov](mailto:Mitichum.Whitaker@kylegislature.gov), and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at, [legislature.ky.gov](http://legislature.ky.gov).

environmental review, zoning authority or public accountability. It simply ensures that innovation is evaluated on facts and standards — not blocked automatically by inertia.

Kentucky has a choice. We can keep paying more each year to bury valuable resources, or we can modernize and build a system that creates jobs and revenue instead of liabilities.

HB 372 is a pro-growth, pro-local-government step in the right direction. The General Assembly should pass it.



**HALL & JONES**  
FUNERAL HOME  
(606) 639-4367

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. — Revelation 21:4

KEVIN HALL

APPALACHIAN  
NEWS-EXPRESS  
(USPS 347-510)

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\*In all other areas, \$85 per year, \$70 for six months or \$45 for three months.

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## OUR ADDRESS

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