

KSP: Operation Mountain Justice removes over \$102,000 worth of drugs off the streets; 28 arrested

Special to Appalachian Newspapers

The Kentucky State Police Post 9 successfully concluded Operation Mountain Justice, targeting suspected drug trafficking networks operating throughout the Post 9 district, according to a statement from KSP.

The operation resulted in 28 arrests, 54 total criminal charges and the seizure of illegal drugs with a street value totaling more than \$102,000.

Post 9 troopers and detectives participated in the coordinated enforcement effort, which led to the seizure of approximately 4.7 pounds of suspected methamphetamine, 130 grams of suspected fen-

tanyl, three firearms and approximately \$1,500 in cash, the statement said.

The statement said that the Kentucky State Police remains committed to disrupting the distribution of illegal drugs and holding those responsible accountable. Efforts such as Operation Mountain Justice continue to make our communities safer by removing danger-

ous drugs and illegal firearms from the community.

The Kentucky State Police encourages the public to share any information related to drug activity by contacting Post 9 at, (606) 433-7711, or submitting an anonymous tip on the agency's website at, kentuckystatepolice.org.

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state's prison system, inmate population and reentry programs designed to help individuals successfully transition back into their communities after incarceration. The committee also heard an update from the Kentucky Parole Board on its work and responsibilities. Finally, members received a presentation on House Bill 60 from the

2026 Regular Session, legislation related to geoengineering, from the bill's sponsor

IJC on Natural Resources & Energy: Members heard a presentation and public comments on Kentucky's application for federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding for federal fiscal year 2027, which helps eligible households pay heating and cooling costs. The committee

also received an update on the implementation of Senate Bill 8 from the 2026 Regular Session, discussed efforts to provide safe drinking water following disasters, and received reports on the state's solid waste management plan and utility pole attachments from the Department of Environmental Protection and Public Service Commission.

Education Assessment & Accountability Review Subcom-

mittee: Members discussed a series of reports and updates from the Department of Education and Office of Education Accountability. First, the Department of Education discussed the implementation of HB 257(2026), which restructured the state's education assessment and accountability system. Next, the panel discussed career and technical education in the state's assessment and account-

ability system. Finally, the Office of Education Accountability presented its annual report.

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, Bobby.McCool@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at, legislature.ky.gov.

VANDERBECK

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clearly exercised.

The terrified look on that unsuspecting woman's face was horrific. She clearly was intimidated and hoping that the group would leave her alone so she could be on her way. I can't help but think that she experienced a mass trauma that afternoon. The women on The View took issue with this intimidating incident, and rightfully so. Racism clearly still exists.

Co-host Sunny Hostin, however, took her view in a tangent that negated the entire meaning of our nation's Old Glory and fueled additional racism. Hostin said that she feels "unsafe" in neighborhoods where American flags are flying because extremists have "co-opted" the flag as a symbol

that projects exclusivity or racism.

The American flag is a symbol of hope and unity. It's not a symbol of segregation or divisiveness. We drape the flag over the coffins of our fallen military personnel. It flies above every courthouse in America. It's been carried by civil rights marchers, astronauts, Olympic athletes, Gold Star families and by individuals all over this country to show patriotism.

When 911 happened, American flags could not be made fast enough. It unified our country: Black, white, Spanish, immigrants and all Americans were as one and raised the American flag in solidarity.

Have bad people used that symbol to their advantage? Yes, nothing or no one is perfect. There are people who misuse

science and say vaccines don't work. There are people who misuse religion, history and of course, social media. That doesn't mean we toss those away. Although banning social media would not hurt my feelings. My freedom of choice is to not partake in the idiocy of social media, just like I don't watch "The View."

White Nationalists wear blue jeans and drink bottled water. Should blue jeans and bottled water be banned to make Sunny feel safe? The ridiculous-

ness of her statement was clearly an effort to create additional drama where there should be none. She might as well have come on to the set buck-naked and said she thinks clothes should be optional if she wanted to create a stir. The audience would need vomit bags for sure, and that's my right to say that. It may be hurtful, but it's my right

The truth is, as we celebrated the birthday of our country and going forward, people will fly their American flag out of love

for their country. They may have a family member serving in the military, or they themselves served. Some people may just want to show their appreciation for a country that offers the opportunity for every person to be free. And Sunny gets offended.

If seeing the American flag triggers fear, the problem may not be that symbol.

Not all white people are nationalists or racists. Not all priests are bad. Not all presidents are pedophiles. Not all Black

people are bad. And not all talk show hosts are intelligent. But according to Hostin, all people who are white and fly a flag are racist nationalists who might as well have been on that train intimidating that young Black woman. Maybe she should consider leaving the country and see how the ratings for "The View" do in Iran?

The train intimidation and the unsafe feelings are clearly racial tragedies.

Thanks for reading the News-Express.

Public Notice

Breaks Interstate Park Commission will hold a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 16 at 11am at the Breaks Park Conference Center, located at 627 Commission Drive, Breaks, VA 24607.

Authorized by Grondall Potter
Commission Chairman

PUBLIC NOTICE

The regular meeting of the Pike County Fiscal Court scheduled for July 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. has been moved to July 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fiscal Courtroom on the second floor of the Pike County Courthouse, 146 Main Street, Pikeville, Kentucky. This will be a special called meeting due to scheduling conflicts. We apologize for any inconvenience.



JULY

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606-437-6001
MWFS 9:00-6:00
TT 10:00-7:00



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	WEEKLY PRIZE 	6	7	1	2	3	4
		Music Theory* 2:00 Adult Guitar Class 1* 4:30 Alibis at the Book Club 5:00	Book Talks Book Club 5:00 Paint Your Own Wooden Dinosaur 5:00	Adult Guitar Class 2* 2:00 Teen Guitar Class 1* 4:30	Story Time 2:00 Teen Guitar Class 2* 4:00 Music Theory 5:00		CLOSED 
12	WEEKLY PRIZE 	13	14	8	9	10	11
		Music Theory* 2:00 Teen Time 4:00 Adult Guitar Class 1* 4:30 Teen Book Club 5:30	Red, White, and Blue at the Bob Amos Story Trail 5:00	Adult Guitar Class 2* 2:00 Teen Guitar Class 1* 4:30	Story Time 2:00 Teen Guitar Class 2* 4:00 Music Theory 5:00		18 Quilters 11:00
19	WEEKLY PRIZE 	20	21	15	16	17	25
		Music Theory* 2:00 Adult Guitar Class 1* 4:30 Alibis at the Book Club 5:00	Popular Sites Along Kentucky's Dark Tourism Trail 5:30	Adult Guitar Class 2* 2:00 Teen Guitar Class 1* 4:30	Story Time 2:00 Teen Guitar Class 2* 4:00 Music Theory 5:00 Shaolin: Breathing and Meditation 5:00 Stomp, Sing and Roar 5:00		25
26	WEEKLY PRIZE 	27	28	22	23	24	31
		Music Theory* 2:00 Teen Time 4:00 Adult Guitar Class 1* 4:30 Teen Book Club 5:30	Salt Dough Fossils 5:00	Adult Guitar Class 2* 2:00 Teen Guitar Class 1* 4:30	Story Time 2:00 Teen Guitar Class 2* 4:00 Music Theory 5:00 Dungeons & Dragons 5:00		31 