



Submitted

**State Sen. Max Wise, who is a Campbellsville University professor, led a session in the Rogers Scholars program, which invites rising juniors to be part of a weeklong academic and leadership program.**

## Rogers Scholars learn from leaders

**SPECIAL TO THE CKNJ**

A total of 50 rising high school juniors from 31 counties in Eastern and Southern Kentucky spent last week at Lindsey Wilson University as part of the Rogers Scholars Program, an initiative of the Center for Rural Development.

During their weeklong academic and leadership camp, students heard from state and local leaders, attended seminars led by

academic and business leaders and served Columbia and Adair County through a community service project. They also received a business lunch etiquette lesson and learned about possible career pathways in education, engineering and healthcare.

The students completed their program at a special ceremony Friday, June 19, at the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, where they heard from

Kentucky native Kenny Davis about his experience playing on the U.S. basketball team in the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, West Germany.

They also delivered presentations about what they had learned and hoped to accomplish because of the leadership program.

Kaysen Thompson of Taylor County High Schools was part of the 2026 Rogers Scholars class.

## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Real estate transfers reflect information from deeds filed in the county clerk's office.

• Nicholas T. Cowherd and Louise Cowherd, married, Old Summersville Road, Campbellsville, to Terri Green and Sherri Bishop, co-trustees of Cowherd Family Trust, Old Summersville Road, Campbellsville: For and in consideration of desire to transfer interest to trust: Beginning on south side of Old Summersville Road, corner to the W.A. Cowherd farm to a new division corner in the James A. Cowherd and Nicholas Cowherd property, 4.75 acres. Fair cash value \$200,000.

• Nicholas T. Cowherd and Louise Cowherd, married, Old Summersville Road, Campbellsville, to Terri Green and Sherri Bishop, co-trustees of Cowherd Family Trust, Old Summersville Road, Campbellsville: For and in consideration of desire to transfer interest to trust: Beginning on south side of Old Summersville Road, corner to the W.A. Cowherd farm to a new division corner in the James A. Cowherd and Nicholas Cowherd property, 4.75 acres. Fair cash value \$200,000.

• Nicholas T. Cowherd and Louise Cowherd, married, Old Summersville Road, Campbellsville, to Terri Green and Sherri Bishop, co-trustees of Cowherd Family Trust, Old Summersville Road, Campbellsville: For and in consideration of desire to transfer interest to trust: Beginning in William Cowherd's line, now Sam Nelson, leading into land conveyed to Will Nelson. Fair cash value \$133,500.

• Nicholas T. Cowherd and Louise Cowherd, married, Old Summersville Road, Campbellsville, to Terri Green and Sherri Bishop, co-trustees of Cowherd Family Trust, Old Summersville Road, Campbellsville: For and in consideration of desire to transfer interest to trust: Tract consisting of 403.4 acres more or less, beginning at a corner to Sam Nelson, and on north side of county road, thence with line of Nelson, a corner to Nelson thence to the line of Cox. Fair cash value \$164,000.

• Nicholas T. Cowherd and Louise Cowherd, married, Old Summersville Road, Campbellsville, to Terri Green and Sherri Bishop, co-trustees of Cowherd Family Trust, Old Summersville Road, Campbellsville: For and in consideration of desire to transfer interest to trust: Parcel 1, beginning on the right-of-way of Campbellsville and Highland turnpike and being a corner of lands of Kenneth Goff and being in line Archie Cowherd, consisting of 135.46 acres; Parcel 2, Tract 1-Being Tracts 44 and 45 of Bobby C.

and Wanda F. Tucker Agricultural Division. Tract 2, Tract 46 of Bobby C. and Wanda F. Tucker Agricultural Division. Fair cash value \$370,000.

• Estate of Noah Michael Smith, by Tammy Elder, executrix, East Martin Road, Campbellsville, to Mark L. Barnett, unmarried, Monterey, Tennessee: Tract containing 11.5 acres more or less, beginning on south side of county road, corner to Joe Gray, thence with a corner to Mrs. Harrison Perkins. \$400,000.

• Rapid Equity Partners LLC, White Rose Road, Campbellsville, to Lola England, unmarried, North Jackson Street, Campbellsville: Tract A (0.582 acres) and Tract B (0.637 acres) of Rapid Equity Partners Land Division No. 1 (McNary Street) plat. \$30,000.

• Judy K. Taylor, unmarried, Old Lebanon Road, Campbellsville, and the Raybourn and Judy Taylor Revocable Trust, by and through Judy K. Taylor, Old Lebanon Road, Campbellsville, to George A. Mills III and Vickie L. Mills, married, Longview Drive, Campbellsville: Parcel 1, beginning at side of Kentucky 55 and corner of lot sold to Otis Wethington, also a corner to Wethington at the road right-of-way. Parcel 2, beginning in line of Frank Metzmeier property, (which stake bears S40 E 163 feet from a stake on the south side of Parkview Drive, corner of Metzmeier and George Sexton) being a new division corner in the land of George Sexton, containing 0.2 acre more or less. \$285,000.

• Estate of Jane Diana Reams by administratrix Cindy Jane Bunnell, Lebanon Avenue, Campbellsville, to Heritage Properties of Campbellsville LLC, Heritage Drive, Campbellsville: Lot 24 of Forest Hills Subdivision. \$3,000.

• Jason Michael Cook and Tracy Cook, married, Preston Avenue, Lexington, and Christopher Lynn Cook, unmarried, by and through his attorney-in-fact Jason Michael Cook, South Central Avenue, Campbellsville, to Jones Creek Properties LLC, Jones Creek Road, Campbellsville: Parcel 1, beginning on north right of way of West Blue Hole Road, and being corner common to Mike Newcomb, David Newcomb Jr., Samuel T. Newcomb, John W. Newcomb and Patrick Newcomb, with the line common to Newcomb, to a stone on west right of way of Kentucky 55 and being a corner common to the lands now or formerly owned by Lee Caldwell and Imogene Caldwell, consisting of 0.46 acre more or less; Parcel 2, Tract 1, beginning at intersection of west right of way of Kentucky 55 and the north right of way of

Kentucky 1625, consisting of 0.23 acres; Tract 2, beginning at a concrete right of way marker at the east right of way of Kentucky 1625 at north side of property acquired by Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for access to property now owned by Bradley Hoosier, consisting of 0.18 acres. \$135,000.

• Debra S. Bailey aka Debra Lynn Bailey, unmarried, Old Lebanon Road, Campbellsville, to Hunter Underwood and Madison Underwood, married, Richerson Road, Campbellsville, : Property 1, beginning on northeast side of Campbellsville to Lebanon state highway, southeast said highway from the corner of the Sanders land running parallel with the Sanders land and with the land of Howard Kerr; Property 2, beginning in line of Bobby Hunt property, corner of the Albert L. Cave property, thence to a new division corner in James W. Smith property then with a new division lines in Hunt property, containing 0.31 acre. \$180,000.

• Randall R. Mann, single, Sportsman Lake Road, Campbellsville, to Christopher R. Mann, married, Sportsman Lake Road, Campbellsville: For and in consideration of love and affection between father and son: Property 1, Tract 1A (2.99 acres more or less) on plat of Survey Title Hoskins & Cundiff LLC, Sportsman Lake Road Division; Property 2, beginning at the south right of way line of Sportsman Lake Road and corner to the property of Marion Mann, containing 2.87 acres; Property 3, First Tract, beginning on a hillside and also corner to T.J. and S.M. Smith, to center of Brush Fork Creek containing 11 acres more or less; Second Tract, beginning on bank of Brushy Creek on a hillside near Frank Smith line, containing 21 acres; Third Tract, beginning at corner of G.W. Minor, to a corner to Pierce, containing 45 acres more or less; Parcel 2, beginning on county road and corner to Rogers, with the line of Rogers, containing 89 acres more or less. Fair market value \$203,000.

• George A. Mills and Vickie Mills, married, Longview Drive, Campbellsville, to Renee Hobbs, widow, Longview Drive, Campbellsville: Lot 11A and part of Lot 10A of Section 2 of Lakeview Subdivision. \$249,900.

• Susan Halliday, single, Lake View Drive, Campbellsville, to J Hawk Properties LLC, Christerson Lane, Campbellsville, Lebanon Avenue, lot 31 plat 2. \$247,000.

# Nature Conservancy adds to growing Kentucky portfolio

**BY AUSTIN R. RAMSEY**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

One of Kentucky's most ecologically significant protected mountain landscapes has just grown a little larger.

The Nature Conservancy acquired 1,732 acres of land this week in Eastern Kentucky along the Cumberland-Pine Mountain corridor in Whitley County near Laurel Fork.

The property sits between a 1,075-acre tract TNC transferred to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources earlier this year and 253,000 acres of Cumberland Forest known as Ataya, which the U.S.-based conservation giant added to in 2019 under one of the largest land deals in modern Appalachian history.

The latest purchase is another piece in a jigsaw puzzle the conservation group is assembling in Appalachia, part of an effort to connect protected lands that leaders hope will reduce habitat fragmentation and allow wildlife to move more freely through one of the largest intact forest landscapes remaining in the eastern U.S.

"We have identified the Cumberland-Pine Mountain corridor as critically important for the ecology and the connectivity of the Appalachian Mountains through Kentucky," said David Phemister, Kentucky director for the Conservancy. "We've

been working for a number of years to stitch together with partners a connected network of protected lands."

Ecologists generally regard the high-elevation thrust faults that sit along the Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee borders part of the Appalachian Mountains' temperate forest ecosystem, where steep sandstone terrain accommodates a diversity of life.

The new property, known as the Thacker property, came under TNC ownership after an inheritance dispute left the former mining and logging site uncertain. It's a crucial piece of property for conservationists who transferred the nearby Mountain River Farms property to the KDFWR this year and helped steer the 55,000-acre Kentucky portion of the Cumberland Forest under a conservation and public access easement in 2023.

TNC said it is considering transferring the Thacker property to KDFWR as well.

"The connectivity that this parcel provides to other key properties will allow us to better manage the resources and provide greater access for hunters and outdoor enthusiasts," KDFWR Wildlife Division Director Ben Robinson said.

The acquisition comes as conservation groups race to protect remaining intact forests across Appalachia amid growing pressure

from development, energy infrastructure and a changing climate. While much of Eastern Kentucky remains heavily forested, conservationists say permanently protecting strategic tracts is critical to maintaining wildlife corridors and preserving biodiversity for future generations.

"The key here is to get it protected," said Chris Garland, director of the TNC Central Appalachians program. "That's what we hope to do first and foremost. From there, really begins the process of working with partners to determine how it will remain that way."

Despite the size of some of its biggest land acquisitions, TNC has fewer than 20 staff members in Kentucky. That's why the group relies on partners to fulfill conservation missions on recently acquired properties, he said.

The organization has used that model across Appalachia to create larger, connected landscapes that balance conservation with sustainable forestry, recreation and local economic opportunities.

"When you talk about connectivity and expanding protected lands, it doesn't get any better than this," Garland said. "This project provided an excellent opportunity to bridge a key natural corridor like this. When we had a chance to protect this land, we knew we had to act."

## Advocacy groups urge Kentucky's utility regulator to investigate affordability

**BY LIAM NIEMEYER**  
KENTUCKY LANTERN

A coalition of consumer advocacy, environmental and renewable energy groups is calling on Kentucky's utility regulator to study various aspects of utility affordability for ratepayers, including the potential costs of data centers and fossil fuels.

In a letter dated Sunday, the groups are asking the Kentucky Public Service Commission to investigate "the drivers of rising energy costs" and "consider a wide range of durable solutions to address affordability."

"We believe the commission, the only executive branch agency tasked with providing our legislature information on how to keep utility costs fair, just and reasonable, is ideally situated and statutorily empowered to provide legislators, the public, and other stakeholders with actionable information on how to address the crisis of rising energy prices in our state," the authors write.

The groups signing the letter include the Letcher County-based Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, the Berea-based Mountain Association, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, the Kentucky Solar Energy Society, the Kentucky

Conservation Committee and the Kentucky Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The authors point to rising electricity costs amid billions of dollars of revenue pulled in by utility companies, arguing that Kentucky families "need durable solutions that will lower energy burdens and monthly costs."

The authors ask the commission to study affordability from a wide range of aspects including demand-side management, performance-based ratemaking, the costs of serving data centers and costs of "extending the life of older fossil-fuel generation resources."

A joint resolution primarily sponsored by Sen. Scott Madon, R-Pineville, that would have directed the commission to investigate improving the affordability of utility service for low-income and fixed-income individuals did not receive full passage through the state legislature.

The commission regulates the rates and services of more than 1,100 utilities, ranging from small water districts providing drinking water to rural communities to the large investor-owned electricity utility Louisville Gas and Electric and

Kentucky Utilities.

The regulator also has the power to open investigations to study specific topics; it opened a case to study nuclear energy last year.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

SECTION 00010 -  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
Sealed Bids for "Cardinal  
Park Booster Pump Station"  
for the City of Campbellsville  
will be received until 11:00  
a.m. (local time) on **July 15,  
2026**, and then publicly  
opened and read aloud.  
The scope of work includes  
the installation of a new pre-  
fabricated booster pump sta-  
tion, yard piping, valves, ac-  
cess road, and related appur-  
tenances.  
The Instructions to Bidders,  
Bid Form, Agreement Forms,  
Performance and Payment  
Bonds, Plans, Specifications  
and other Contract Docu-  
ments may be viewed online  
at [lynnimaging.com](http://lynnimaging.com) or ex-  
amined at the following loca-  
tions:

City of Campbellsville  
109 West Main Street  
Campbellsville, KY 42718  
(270) 465-7011

Eclipse Engineers, PLLC  
113 West Mt. Vernon Street  
Somerset, KY 42501  
(606) 451-0959

Copies of plans and specifica-  
tions may be obtained from  
Lynn Imaging, 328 Old Vine  
Street, Lexington, Kentucky  
40507 (859-255-1021) upon  
payment of a non-refundable  
price of \$250.00 for each set  
(including shipping and hand-  
ling). No bid will be accepted  
unless the BIDDER is a re-  
gistered plan holder. To be-  
come a registered plan holder,  
BIDDER must purchase at  
least one set of documents  
from Lynn Imaging and  
provide accurate name and  
contact information. Partial  
sets of documents will not be  
provided. Half-sized sets may  
be purchased for the full price.  
Digital download sets may be  
purchased for half of the full  
price. Questions shall be ad-  
dressed to Alan R. Robinson,  
P.E. of Eclipse Engineers,  
PLLC, 113 West Mt. Vernon  
Street, Somerset, Kentucky  
42501 (606-451-0959) as  
stated in the Specifications or  
by email to [arobinson@eclipseengineers.net](mailto:arobinson@eclipseengineers.net).  
The OWNER reserves the  
right to waive any informality  
or to reject any or all bids.  
Each BIDDER must deposit  
with his Bid, security in the  
amount, form and subject to  
the conditions provided in the  
Instructions to Bidders.  
No BIDDER may withdraw  
his Bid within ninety (90) con-  
secutive calendar days after  
the actual date of the opening  
thereof.

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GUTTERS

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