

OBITUARIES

Marilyn Jean Samuels Stevens, 68

Marilyn Jean (Samuels) Stevens, 68, died on Monday, May 11, 2026.

She spent over 25 years as a waitress at Waffle House. Her world was with her grandchildren and her great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul Samuels and Glenda Pryor.

She is survived by her children, Matthew (Michelle) Stevens (Wife Michelle) of Cub Run, and



Amanda Stevens of Louisville; grandchildren,

Kane Stevens, Jacob Suell and Alec Suell; and great-granddaughter, Natalie Stevens; and siblings, Danny (Kathy) Samuels, Steve (Cindy) Samuels and Laura Hardin.

She was the most giving person you could meet! She put others before herself.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 27 at Hebron Presbyterian Church Gym.

Louise Hefley Cothorn House, 83

Louise Hefley Cothorn House, 83, of Boston passed away Sunday, May 10, 2026, at Kindred Hospital.

She was born June 13, 1942 to her parents, John and Lillie Hines Hefley.

Louise was a longtime member of the Lebanon Junction Church of God of Prophecy and was a self-employed caregiver.

She was preceded in death by two husbands, Charles Cothorn and Bobby House; sons, Donnie and Roger Cothorn; grandchildren, John Curtis Walden, David Vittitoe, Derek Cothorn, Charles Melvin Vittitow and Lora Cothorn; great grandchildren, Kodie

McCubbins and Lexi Cothorn and her siblings, William Tobe Hefley; Evelyn Kelly, Doris Hutchins and Jerry Hefley.

Survivors include her sons, Charles Cothorn and Anthony Cothorn (Donna Walden); daughters, Kathy Vittitoe (Mike) and Melissa Cothorn; sisters, Gladys Mae Cothorn, Mary Catherine Stotts and Mary Frances Allen (Sammy); grandchildren, Justin, April, Travis, Thomas, Daniel, Tausha, Elijah, Raven (Jasmine), Quincy, Makayla, Brandon, Britany, Katrina, Samantha, Jennifer, Jeremy, Jesse and DJ and 39 great grandchildren.

Services will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Trowbridge Funeral Home in Lebanon Junction with burial to follow in the Lebanon Junction City Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 1- 8PM. Thursday, May 14, 2026, from 12-8PM Friday, May 15, 2026 and after 9:00 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

To express an online condolence, plant a memorial tree and to light a candle of remembrance please visit, www.trowbridgefh.com

Trowbridge Funeral Home in Lebanon Junction has been entrusted with the arrangements.

MY VIEWS/Window box plantings add curb appeal

If you live in an apartment or can't find the time to plant a garden of your favorite annuals, or if you have simply run out of room on your patio or in your garden, have you ever considered creating a window box or two. They make for good curb appeal.



JENEWEN WICHE

cially if you do not have a garden space available. And the best thing about window boxes is that you get to enjoy the flowers from both sides of the window.

The first step is choosing the right window box. It can be as simple as placing a terracotta trough on your window ledge, or as elaborate as a hand carved or painted wooden box permanently attached to your window frame. Plastic varieties are available at garden centers as well as coco fiber-lined wire frames, called hay racks (my favorite), or any variation on the theme. There are dozens of styles to choose from. Just make sure there are ample drainage holes for the box, and they can be safely affixed to your window area. You can attach your window boxes by using L-shaped brackets at the bottom to support the box; or eye-hooks to fasten from the top. Commercial boxes should come with their own fastening devices. They can also be mounted on pre-existing railings of a deck or patio.

Most often window boxes are planted with annuals. But a kitchen window box can be a

great way to have your favorite kitchen herbs right outside your kitchen door. For a more formal look select a couple of topiary herbs as the centerpiece of the box and fill in the rest as you please. For tender herbs you can transplant them into a pot and bring them inside for the winter, especially topiary because it can be rather expensive.

Your window box can be utilized year-round just like other frost-safe pots outside. Moisten the soil and stick in boughs from evergreen and holly cuttings, some magnolia, some ivy, and a few pinecones and berries. Presto! You have a beautiful winter window box. You can even force some spring bulbs and mix them with pansies so they will be ready to adorn your windows at the first sign of spring.

If you are going the annual route, be sure to pinch off all the buds and blooms and give them a shot of root-stimulant fertilizer at planting. You can use water absorbing pellets in the soil mixture to help maintain moisture in the boxes (they do dry out a bit faster than other containers). Do check on the watering more frequently until you get an idea about how quickly they may dry out.

Election integrity, modernization law ensures primary security

Comprehensive election integrity and modernization law will ensure security of May primaries

In the 2026 Regular Session, Kentucky lawmakers passed multiple bills improving Kentucky elections. HB 139 is among the new laws from this year's legislative session. With the May primary fast approaching, I would like to take a moment to highlight the positive impact this measure will have on elections across the Commonwealth.



THOMAS HUFF

HB 139 is a common sense election reform measure that strengthens voter-list maintenance, modernizes voting equipment and procedures, tightens voter identification rules, and improves overall election administration and security across the Commonwealth. The original version of this "continuous improvement" bill was expanded by the Senate before final passage in the House to include key provisions from HB 534 and SB 154, both of which passed in their originating chambers.

HB 139 requires systematic use of U.S. Postal Service change-of-address data and inter-governmental data-sharing agreements to identify and remove ineligible voters (deceased, people who have moved out of state, noncitizens, and ineligible felons), while maintaining strong safeguards to protect eligible

voters from erroneous removal.

Additionally, for further security with voter ID, the measure reinforces the requirement that voters must produce a photo ID. This eliminates the use of the previously allowed forms of identification that do not include a photo, such as Social

Security cards and public benefits cards (including SNAP cards), and the ability for an election officer, also referred to as a poll worker, to execute an affirmation if the voter is personally known to the poll worker.

Provisions in the bill for identifying and removing noncitizens from the voter rolls will not impact this or next year's elections as they do not go into effect until January 1, 2028.

Regarding election equipment and procedures, HB 139 requires future approvals and purchases of voting systems and equipment to prohibit nonhuman readable codes such as barcodes or QR codes for tabulating voter choices. The measure also clarifies filing deadlines and procedures for write-in candidates to ensure greater transparency.

HB 139 updates reporting requirements for campaign finances, increases campaign contribution limits, and strengthens enforcement of contribution rules. It also improves coordination between state and local election officials.

Additionally, the measure allows a qualified political party committee, including a state or county executive committee, to endorse, support, oppose, and make contributions or expenditures to nonpartisan candidates.

Finally, judicial candidates in nonpartisan elections are now allowed to publicly disclose their political party affiliation, state their current and past voter registration status, and communicate political values or views consistent with that affiliation under HB 139.

These provisions align Kentucky statutory provisions with federal court decisions protecting First Amendment rights. Judicial races remain nonpartisan, and candidates are prohibited from claiming to be an official nominee of any political party and from using party symbols, slogans, or imagery in a way that would imply they are running in a partisan election or selected by a political party to represent it.

It is essential that we as Kentuckians do what it takes to protect our elections and maintain their security and integrity. This bill moves the Commonwealth forward and I am proud to have supported its passage.

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 Thomas.Huff@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

INSPECTION PERIOD FOR THE PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL

The Bullitt County real property tax roll will be opened for inspection from May 18 through June 2, 2026. Under the supervision of property valuation administrator (PVA), Clint Mattingly, or one of the deputies, any person may inspect the tax roll.

This is the January 1, 2026, assessment on which state, county, and school taxes for 2026 will be due in the fall of 2026.

The tax roll is in the office of the property valuation administrator in the County Courthouse Annex building, 2nd floor and may be inspected between the hours:

- 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.,**
- 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday**
- 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Saturday**

Any taxpayer desiring to appeal an assessment on real property made by the PVA must first request a conference with the PVA or a designated deputy. The conference may be held prior to or during the inspection period. Written documentation supporting your opinion of value will continue to be required. However, you will be instructed on the best method to submit your documentation after contacting our office regarding your request to have a conference.

Any taxpayer still aggrieved by an assessment on real property, after the conference with the PVA or designated deputy, may appeal to the county board of assessment appeals.

The appeal must be filed with the county clerk's office no later than one workday following the conclusion of the inspection period. Please contact the county clerk's office to receive instructions on the method the office is using to accept appeals this year and to obtain a form that can be used to file your appeal.

Any taxpayer failing to appeal to the county board of assessment appeals, or failing to appear before the board, either in person or by designated representative, will not be eligible to appeal directly to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Appeals of personal property assessments shall not be made to the county board of assessment appeals. Personal property taxpayers shall be served notice under the provisions of KRS 132.450(4) and shall have the protest and appeal rights granted under the provisions of KRS 131.110.

The following steps should be taken when a taxpayer does not agree with the assessed value of personal property as determined by the property valuation administrator.

- (1) He must list under protest (for certification) what he believes to be the fair cash value of his property.
- (2) He must file a written protest directly with the Department of Revenue, Office of Property Valuation within 30 days from the date of the notice of assessment.
- (3) This protest must be in accordance with KRS 131.110.
- (4) The final decision of the Department of Revenue may be appealed to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

Clint Mattingly

Bullitt County Property Valuation Administrator



Paxton Media Group is seeking a regional advertising sales representative to sell the newspapers and digital products of area newspapers.

The advertising sales representative is responsible for the sales of print and online advertising products and services to local and area businesses to meet the financial goals of the newspaper. Growing profitable long-term advertising relationships with current active advertisers, developing new advertising relationships with currently inactive customers and actively prospecting for new customers are keys to success.

The newspaper offers a competitive salary plus commission and a benefits package including optional medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) and paid time off.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrate high ethical standards.
- Experience in sales or media sales preferred.
- Understanding of marketing and

promotion aspects of print and digital media platforms preferred.

- Demonstrated record of success in a goal-oriented, high performance accountability work environment.
- Strong skill and ability to use computer applications for word processing, spreadsheets, budgeting, business scheduling and electronic communications purposes.
- Demonstrated self-starter with the ability to effectively manage time and multiple accounts to meet established deadlines and project goals with minimal supervision.
- Must have reliable transportation, motor vehicle insurance and a valid driver's license.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Achieve the advertising revenue goals on a consistent basis.

- Implement profitable print and online advertising product and service tactics and strategies to meet existing customer needs in the local and area market.
- Grow profitable long-term advertising relationships with current active advertisers.
- Develop new advertising relationships with currently inactive customers.
- Actively prospecting for new advertising customers.
- Identify and capture profitable advertising opportunities that exist in the local and area market.
- Work to keep advertiser aging balances current and assist in the collections of past due accounts.
- Job Type: Full-time

To apply, please email resume to bcarlson@paxtonmedia.com.