

# ARREST

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worker.

Following an investigation, Kentucky State Police detectives, with assistance from the State Medical Examiner, determined the infant was born alive and healthy before being placed in a dumpster on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. Despite investigative efforts at the time, the case later went cold.

In recent years, Post 7 Detectives re-examined the case using advancements in forensic science and inves-

tigative technology. As a result of collaborative investigative efforts, new leads were developed identifying Cummins as a person of interest. Detectives traveled to Virginia, where information obtained during the investigation was corroborated.

In late 2025, the investigation was presented to a Madison County Grand Jury, which returned an indictment charging Cummins with the murder of Baby Jane Doe. Cummins is currently lodged in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, awaiting extradition to Kentucky.

The investigation remains

# AUDIT

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city's government-wide financial statements, which combine all governmental and business-type activities. According to the audit, the City of Berea reported total assets of approximately \$149.6 million and total liabilities of \$41 million, resulting in a total net position of about \$10.4 million.

She also reviewed the

statement of activities, which functions similarly to an income statement in the private sector. The city reported total primary government expenses of \$35.9 million and total general revenues of \$21.1 million, resulting in a change in net position of nearly \$14 million for the fiscal year.

Additional sections of the report detail the city's major governmental funds, including the general fund, ARPA funds and

tourism fund, as well as proprietary funds related to utility operations.

Powers also highlighted the auditor's report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance. The audit found no material weaknesses in internal controls and no instances of non-compliance with government auditing standards.

A separate review of federal funds, known as a single audit, also resulted

in a clean opinion. Powers said the city complied with all material requirements related to its major federal programs, with no instances of non-compliance identified.

City council members praised city staff for the audit results.

Councilor Steve Caudill said the city has consistently received clean audit

opinions during his time in office and credited the finance department for its work.

"That's a testament to the hard work," Caudill said. "We often take for granted how smoothly this goes every year."

Councilor Steve Davis echoed those remarks, noting the significant amount of work involved

in preparing for audits.

"When you come back and see this kind of report, it's tremendous," Davis said, adding that the strong cooperation between city staff and the audit firm helps prevent issues seen elsewhere.

The audit results were accepted by the council without objection.

Contact Steve Cornelius at [scornelius@richmondregister.com](mailto:scornelius@richmondregister.com).

# BOOK

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The story emphasizes that friendship isn't about being the same — "it's about caring for one another, helping when it matters most," Johnson explained — and includes a faith-based message, with characters offering prayers of gratitude at day's end.

Johnson shared that her inspiration for the book came from her own farm experiences and the animals she loves. "I just love to create and tell stories about nature and the important things, like being kind and being part of a community," she said. "I wanted to create some special stories for children, especially with a message of everyone belonging."

Following her successful debut, Johnson released a second book, *The Big Blue Farmhouse: Zamboni's Winter Surprise!* This win-

ter-themed story features farm friends enjoying snowball fights, icy tumbles, and cozy moments by the fire. It also highlights the importance of confidence and teamwork, as a new character named Zamboni reveals a hidden talent, turning an ordinary day into an extraordinary adventure.

"Through laughter, encouragement, and teamwork, the friends learn that kindness and believing in each other can turn an ordinary day into something special," Johnson said. The book features beautiful watercolor illustrations that capture the magic of winter on the farm.

In addition to her books, Johnson has authored a farm-themed coloring book, "The Big Blue Farmhouse: Color Your Way Through the Farm", that was released on December 27, 2025. The coloring book invites children to color scenes and

characters from the series, supporting creativity and quiet play.

Johnson's dedication to wholesome storytelling is evident in her work, which often draws from her experiences with her animals and her deep faith. "My main goal is that parents will read these stories to their children before bed, and that children will feel loved and included," she said. "The core message is that everyone has a place to belong."

She hopes her stories will inspire kindness and faith in young readers, and she looks forward to creating more in the series. "If my stories can help even one child feel loved and understood, I'll consider that a success," Johnson added.

For more information about Melanie Johnson's books and updates, visit her website at [thebigbluefarmhouse.com](http://thebigbluefarmhouse.com) or follow her on Facebook at "The Big Blue Farmhouse Book Series".

## NOTICE OF FILING SETTLEMENTS

Notice is hereby given to all persons on the 11th day of FEBRUARY 2026 at 1:30 p.m., the following fiduciary accounts will be read and confirmed in the Madison District Court. All objection must be filed on or before the above date.

Estate of	Fiduciary	Attorney	Kind
Robert C. Johnson Jr. 22-P-00087	Ladonna M. Neeley	W. Thomas Bunch II 126 W. Maxwell St. Ste 200 Lexington, KY 40508	1st Per. Settle. 2nd Per. Settle. 12-10-2025
Dianna Sue Johnson 22-P-00088	Ladonna M. Neeley	W. Thomas Bunch II 125 W. Maxwell St. Ste 200 Lexington, KY 40508	1st Per. Settle. 2nd Per. Settle. 11-21-2025
Lora L. Stratton 23-P-00478	Jerrica Skidmore	Chadwick B. Hammonds 133 Plaza Dr. Ste 2 Berea, KY 40403	Final Settlement 12-17-2025
Zola Semonis 23-P-00500	Veronica Blair	B. Travis Newman 200 N. Third St. PO Box 726 Louisville, KY 40206	Periodic Settlement 12-15-2025
Ronald Dean 25-P-00036	Michael S. Fore	Michael S. Fore 200 N. Third St. PO Box 726 Richmond, KY 40475	Proposed Final Settlement 12-17-2025

This JANUARY 10, 2026-  
David M. Fernandez by JS/DC  
Madison County District Court

# LICENSE

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and for use at select venues, such as airports. It can be used at TSA security checkpoints at more than 250 airports across the country, streamlining the travel process for Kentuckians.

Despite the convenience of Mobile IDs, authorities stress that they do not replace the physical driver's license. Kentucky law (KRS 186.510) mandates that drivers must carry their physical driver's license whenever operating a vehicle. Law enforcement officers are only permitted to request and accept a physical license during traffic stops or in the event of an

accident. "Even with Mobile ID, always carry your hard copy license when you're behind the wheel," said the Kentucky State Police.

The Mobile ID is intended primarily for digital identity verification and transactions with businesses that accept digital IDs. According to officials, users can present their Mobile ID for certain verifications, but they should always verify with the organization beforehand whether digital IDs are accepted. For safety and legal reasons, the physical card remains the primary form of identification during traffic stops and other official interactions with law enforcement.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet reassures residents that the Mobile ID is a secure digital version

of their state ID. The digital version is designed to enhance convenience without compromising security. However, authorities caution that Mobile IDs are not a substitute for the physical driver's license when operating a vehicle or during law enforcement encounters.

In summary, Kentucky's Mobile ID offers a modern, digital way to carry identification, especially useful for air travel and certain transactions. But residents are reminded to keep their physical driver's license readily available whenever they are driving or interacting with police. For more information about the Mobile ID program, residents can visit the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's website at <https://drive.ky.gov/Pages/Mobile-ID.aspx>.

## APPOINTMENTS

Pursuant to Section 424.120 and 420.340 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, Notice of Creditors, Administration has been granted by the District court upon the following:

Estate	Fiduciary	Attorney	Kind
Barbara S. Jones 25-P-00109	Angela Davis Christopher Jones	Greg Puckett 1000 Commercial Dr, Ste 3 Richmond, KY 40475	Co-Executors 12-03-2025
Matthew R. Arthur 25-P-006646	William R. Arthur 1251 Speedwell Road Richmond, KY 40475		Administrator 12-03-2025
Harold E. Richardson Jr. 25-P-00644	Scott Althauser	Walter G. Ecton Jr. 127 South Third St, Richmond, KY 40475	Executor 12-03-2025
Wendell Fortney 25-P-00649	Michael S. Fore	Michael S. Fore 200 N. Third St. PO Box 726 Richmond, KY 40475	Executor 12-03-2025
Joann Christine Hayden 25-P-00650	Robert L. Hayden	Blevins Law 400 Richmond Rd N Ste C Berea, KY 40403	Executor 12-02-2025
William Wall Halcomb 25-P-00654	Lisa Alford Joan Robinson	Jerry W. Gilbert 212 N. Second Street PO Box 1178 Richmond, KY 40476	Co-Administratrix 12-10-2025
Joyce Stocker 25-P-00655	Donnie Gibson Stocker	Scott Collins PO Box 2036 Richmond, KY 40475	Executor 12-03-2025
Jewell B. Parke 25-P-00656	Joni Dingledine	Marc Robbins 214 North Third St. Richmond, KY 40475	Executrix 12-10-2025
Thomas J. Congleton 25-P-00658	Darnetta Congleton	Rodney Davis 230 N. Second St. Richmond, KY 40475	Executrix 12-04-2025
Betty Brockman 25-P-00659	Darren Brockman	Sarah James Sendor PO Box 2036 Richmond, KY 40476	Executor 12-17-2025
Edna Isaacs 25-P-00661	Trevor Dalton Isaacs	Sarah James Sendor PO Box 2036 Richmond, KY 40476	Administrator 12-17-2025
Carole Detisch 25-P-00665	John Detisch	Michael S. Fore 200 N. Third St. PO Box 726 Richmond, KY 40475	Administrator 12-10-2025
Wanda Gill Snyder 25-P-00635	Audra Stenstrom	Greg A. Hunter 271 West Short St. Lexington, KY 40507	Administratrix 11-26-2025
Jacqueline C. Lake 25-P-00663	Charles J. Johnson Kirk D. Lake	Isaacs Law Office 218 West Main St. Richmond, KY 40475	Co-Executors 12-05-2025
Charles J. McClellan 25-P-00670	Jeff Egelston	Isaacs Law Office 218 West Main St. Richmond, KY 40475	Executor 12-17-2025
Ruth Suzy Henderson Lippman 25-P-00673	Douglas A. Lippman	Greg Puckett 416 Tobiano Drive Richmond, KY 40475	Administrator 12-17-2025
Mary Elizabeth Moore Roberts 25-P-00687	Elizabeth R. Upchurch	Stuart K. Olds 218 West Main St. Richmond, KY 40475	Executrix 12-30-2025

All persons having claims against the above decedents are notified to file same, property proven, with the respective representatives no later than 6 months from the date of appointment.

This January 10, 2026

David M. Fernandez by SJ/DC

Madison County Circuit/District Court