



This poster highlights children who have been diagnosed with childhood cancer. | PHOTO BY NITA JOHNSON

vival rates for children with DIPG are very slim.

“Only 10% make it over two years after they’re diagnosed. Only 1% make it five years,” Marsha said.

Despite the prognosis for Destiny, her mother has researched numerous treatments that will prolong — and hopefully, save — her daughter’s life.

“I had them do some blood tests and other tests,” she said. “I found some full extract cannabis oil from some old school farms in California. She’s now had a 38% shrinkage of that tumor since we started that.”

On Saturday, Faith Like Destiny, a fundraiser and awareness effort for childhood cancers, was held at Town Center Park featuring live entertainment from Branstetter Music Management. Information booths and posters lined the walk-

ways of the park with statistics of childhood cancers, especially DIPG. A silent auction was also held.

Organizers earned non-profit status just this week, and are planning an event in neighboring Pulaski County.

The day-long event also featured the “Ice Cream for Liam” food truck which offered a wide selection of ice cream and candy bars. The food truck is operated by the family of Liam Roland Brown, who died last year at 4 after battling brain cancer for over two years. Brown’s grandmother, B J Comer, said she was honored to have the food truck featuring Liam’s favorite sweet treats.

“We’ve been working on getting this going and have it ready for today,” she said. “We’re here to support Liam and to support all families that are facing the same thing we did.”

DESTINY

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“It’s a tumor in the cerebellum at the base of the brain where it connects with the spinal cord. It’s inoperable because of where it is at the brain stem,” she said. “That makes it terminal.”

The treatments for Destiny, now 10 years old, had the Miniard family struggling to help their daughter while caring for their other three children.

“We have Aerionna who is 14, Jace is 7 and we have a 3-month-old, Drea,” Marsha said. “It was hard — Destiny was fine one day and just got up one day and was wobbly. Then she lost

all movement in her left arm and leg.”

The first test showed Destiny’s tumor measured 3.1 centimeters.

“Within 10 days, it gained one whole centimeter. It’s a very aggressive cancer,” Marsha said. “They gave her six to nine months to live.”

The treatments also erased some of the brain’s activities that control body functions.

“Destiny had to learn to talk and walk again,” Marsha explained. “She was in a wheelchair for six months.”

DIPG affects children between age 5 to 10, but is most often diagnosed between ages 6 to 9. Symptoms include: headaches, balance and coordination changes, vision changes, speech dif-

ficulties, facial weakness, swallowing problems and fatigue.

Although the Miniards reside in Keavy, Destiny was counted as one of the five children in the Corbin area who have recently been diagnosed with DIPG, spurring a state study as well as statement by U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers regarding steps to determine the occurrence of so many cases in a concentrated area in such a short amount of time.

Biology Insights webpage states that the rates of occurrence of DIPG are 1.78 cases per 100,000 population (children and adults). It also states that there are 200 to 300 cases diagnosed yearly in the United States. Sur-



The “Ice Cream for Liam” food truck was among the vendors at the “Faith Like Destiny” event on Saturday. Liam Brown died last year after battling a rare childhood cancer for over two years. | PHOTO BY NITA JOHNSON

LAWSUIT

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with the nonprofit organization.

The lawsuit states that Handley, who is currently a candidate in the upcoming election for Mayor of the City of London, previously fostered a six-pound terrier mix named “Buddy” through Kentucky Mutts Animal Rescue in May 2025. Court records allege the dog was scheduled to be transferred to Second City Canine Rescue in Chicago for adoption on May 29, 2025.

According to the filing, Handley reported the dog missing before the transfer



Mayoral candidate Tracie Handley, pictured, has been sued for defamation by Kentucky Mutts director Vikki Crook. | FILE PHOTO BY MADISON NANTZ

date, allegedly stating the dog “pulled her to the ground and ran away” during the late-night or early morning

hours of May 28-29, 2025, while still attached to its leash.

The complaint asserts Buddy was never located.

Crook claims in the suit that Handley “failed to assist in locating Buddy” and later engaged in what the complaint describes as “a campaign to defame, humiliate, and otherwise intentionally harm” Crook through statements made publicly, including on Facebook, by text messages and through phone calls.

The complaint specifically references statements reportedly made by Handley during an appearance on the “No Sugar Coating Podcast,” published around April 20. In

the filing, Crook claims Handley made statements implying Kentucky Mutts Animal Rescue sent dogs for “animal testing,” questioned whether dogs actually went to Chicago rescues, and suggested the organization had a “nefarious connection to Afghanistan.”

The lawsuit further alleges Handley implied Crook and the rescue organization harmed or neglected animals in their care and misled the public regarding rescue operations.

The filing alleges the statements falsely portrayed Crook as engaging in unethical, corrupt or criminal conduct, and claims the remarks caused reputational harm, emotional distress, anxiety

and humiliation.

Crook is seeking compensatory damages, punitive damages, attorney fees, court costs and a jury trial.

The complaint was filed by London-based attorney Brandon West on behalf of Crook.

When asked to comment, Handley provided this statement:

“I am aware that a lawsuit has been filed. Unfortunately, on advice of counsel, I cannot directly address the details of the pending litigation. I can say, however, that I respectfully disagree with the claims made in the lawsuit and intend to respond through the appropriate legal channels.”

Triple M Storage Auction

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Eugene McCowan, owner of Triple M Storage, intends to sell contents of 12 storage units listed below to enforce a lien imposed on said property under The Kentucky Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 359.200-359.250). This sale will be conducted through Lockerfox.com on-line only beginning Friday, April 24, 2026, at 10:00 am through Friday, May 15, 2026, at 10:00 am. Property is stored at Triple M Storage at the corner of 1200 Highway 490 and 66 School St., East Bernstadt, KY 40429.

Units to be are sold 102, 704, 413, 507, 11, 23, 131, 32, 80, 215, 702, and 20.

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase by cash only. All purchased items are sold as is, where is, and must be removed within 72 hours from the time of sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

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