

Commanders outlast Knights in overtime

LEBANON — Washington County outlasted longtime rival Marion County 76-74 in overtime in a boys' basketball game at the Roby Dome on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

The Commanders improved to 7-12 after registering the win.

Washington County and Marion County, non-district foes, swapped leads throughout the game.

The Commanders and Knights were tied 16-16 at the end of the opening quarter.

However, Marion County thrived throughout the second quarter and entered halftime ahead 45-34.

The Knights led 55-52 at the conclusion of the third quarter but the Commanders continued to challenge the host team.

Washington County and Marion County were tied 65-65 at the end of regulation.

The Commanders managed to

outscore the Knights 11-9 in the extra period to claim the non-district win.

Washington County shot 50.0 percent from the field. The Commanders shot 47.1 percent (eight-of-17) from three-point range.

Washington County shot 69.0 percent from the free throw line.

Evan McIlvoy led Washington County to the win. McIlvoy poured in a game-high 32 points for the Commanders.

Following McIlvoy in Washington County's scoring column, Lance Coulter netted 16 points.

Accompanying McIlvoy and Coulter in double figures, Caden Garrett scored 11 points for the Commanders.

Chipping in offensively, JT Smith (eight points), Xavien Keene (six points) and Sy Bramblett (three points) provided the rest of Washington County's scoring.

Marion County shot 43.8 percent from the field. The Knights shot 31.2 percent from three-point range.

Marion County shot 61.5 percent from the free throw line.

Four Marion County players reached double figures in scoring. Jaiden Newby and Nate Wright scored a team-high 15 points apiece for the Knights.

As part of a balanced offensive attack for Marion County, Gabriel Washington scored 14 points while Eli Washington netted 12 points.

Eight different players entered Marion County's scoring column. The other scorers for Marion County were Zack Adams (seven points), Christian Rucker (seven points), Trey Rakes (two points) and Melvin James (two points).

Washington County is scheduled to host Marion County for a late-season game on Tuesday, Feb. 10.



JANE REID KLEYN/The Springfield Sun

Kentucky's 2025-26 deer harvest was fifth highest on record

But doe totals fall well short of goals

FRANKFORT — Hunters harvested 145,433 deer in Kentucky during the 2025-26 season, the fifth-highest reported total in history and 3,000 above the 10-year average.

Washington County was in the top 10 counties for deer harvested. The county had the seventh highest number of deer taken at 2,662.

The recently completed 136-day season was noteworthy for a newly expanded October youth-only season, impressive success of hunters on public land, and a high percentage of harvested bucks estimated to be 2½ years old or older.

But doe harvest goals, aimed at maintaining a healthy and quality herd,

were not met.

“In many ways, it was a great deer season – almost 105,000 hunters were successful in taking at least one deer, walking away with meat in the freezer, some with a rack for the wall and all stories to tell friends and family,” said Joe McDermott, deer program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

“We are looking to substantially increase the female harvest over time,” he said.

OVERALL HARVEST:
The 145,433 total is less than last season's 149,868 deer, which was the second only to the 155,730 taken in 2015. But this season's total is well above the 10-year average of 142,412.

METHOD OF TAKE:
The season began 30 minutes before sunrise Sept. 6, 2025, and came to a close 30 minutes after sundown

on Jan. 19, 2026. The vast majority of deer were harvested during the 16-day modern gun season, Nov. 8-23, 2025. In all, 72 percent of deer were killed with modern guns, 11 percent with bows, 10 percent with crossbows, and 6 percent with muzzleloaders.

IN-STATE HUNTERS:
Kentucky residents accounted for 80 percent of successful hunters, while non-residents accounted for 15 percent. That breakdown has been consistent over the last decade. The other 5 percent were either unknown or youth.

BUCK AGES:
Of male deer harvested, 69.5 percent were estimated to be 2½ years old or older, 21 percent were yearlings and 9.5 percent were male fawns.

BY REGION:
The Bluegrass Region

accounted for 28 percent of the harvest, followed by the Green River Region at 27 percent, the Southeast Region at 18 percent, the Purchase Region at 14 percent and the Northeast Region at 12 percent.

TOP TEN COUNTIES:
For the fifth time in seven seasons, Hardin County finished with the highest harvest with 3,543 deer, followed by Breckinridge (3,090), Christian (2,998), Hart (2,814), Graves (2,698), Shelby (2,692), Washington (2,662), Pendleton (2,642), Nelson (2,590) and Hopkins (2,484) counties.

EARLY CWD SEASON:
Hunters took 576 deer taken during a special two-day, antlerless-only firearms season established Sept. 27-28, 2025, in the 14 counties that made up Kentucky's Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Zones at that time, partly to obtain samples

to be tested for CWD.

DOE HARVEST:
Only 43.5 percent of deer harvested were female. Wildlife officials want more does harvested in the state's 51 Zone 1 counties to reduce deer populations there and in the 35 Zone 2 counties to maintain their current populations. Of Kentucky's four deer zones, Zone 1 has the highest deer densities while Zone 4 has the lowest.

This year, Fish and Wildlife set doe harvest goals for Zone 1 and Zone 2 counties, but only one county – Simpson – met its goal. Eleven other counties met 80 to 90 percent of the department's goals.

McDermott said wildlife officials are discussing ways to increase doe harvest. More than 20 counties are expected to be reassigned to different zones to encourage more doe harvest in the 2026-27 deer season.

An overabundance of deer can result in increased deer-

vehicle collisions and damage to agricultural crops and expensive landscaping. It can also increase the spread of tick-borne and other diseases and lead to smaller body sizes and antlers due to competition for food.

“When there are fewer deer on the landscape, the remaining animals are better able to reach their full potential,” McDermott said.

HUNTER SUCCESS:
Of the 104,595 successful deer hunters, 74 percent took only one deer, less than 43 percent took a doe and less than 3 percent filled their standard four-deer permit allotment, said Tommy Apostolopoulos, deer program biologist.

As a reminder, hunters who take more deer than they need can donate a deer to Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry or Boone Brothers, two organizations working together to fight food insecurity.

Washington County Little League online registration open

SPRINGFIELD — Washington County Little League has opened online registration for its 2026 season.

The baseball divisions for Washington County Little League are coed t-ball (4-6-year-olds), coach pitch (6-8-year-olds), minor kid pitch (9-10-year-olds), and major kid pitch (11-12-year-olds).

The softball divisions for Washington County Little League are coach pitch (6-8-year-olds), minor kid pitch (9-10-year-olds), and major kid pitch (11-12-year-olds).

The registration fee for Washington County Little League is \$75 per child (\$150 family maximum).

Registration for Washington

County Little League is available online at <https://leagues.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1559034>.

In-person signups for Washington County Little League will be held at a time to be announced in February.

ANOTHER

FROM PAGE B2

COMMANDERETTES FALL TO METCALFE COUNTY

SPRINGFIELD — Washington County couldn't work its way back into the win column as Metcalfe County prevailed 64-33 in a non-district girls' basketball game on Thursday, Jan. 22.

Following the loss, Washington County slipped to 1-16.

points) and Lilly Billingsley (two points).

Boles logged a double-double for Metcalfe County, clearing out a game-high 11 rebounds.

Washington County shot 30.0 percent from the field. The Commanderettes connected on two of 12 three-pointers.

Washington County made one of 10 free throw attempts in the setback.

Izzy Medley paced Washington County with a

double-double, scoring 15 points and claiming 10 rebounds.

Along with Medley, Adriana Brown (six points), Kylie Newton (five points), Sophia Teague (three points), Jolie Logsdon (two points) and Addison Abell (two points) provided scoring for the Commanderettes.

Washington County and Metcalfe County aren't scheduled to meet again in the 2025-26 girls' high school basketball season.

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INVITATION TO BID

The City of Springfield will accept sealed bids until 4:00 p.m., February 10, 2026 for the following:

1. Bituminous surface per ton laid in place on city property
2. Tack and prime per gallon.
3. Double chip seal in city limits.
4. Concrete delivered by the yard in city limits (3500 & 5000 psi)

Price quotes shall remain in effect for 2026 calendar year. Submit bids to City of Springfield, 127 W. Main Street, Springfield, Kentucky 40069. All bids should be marked on the outside lower left corner of the envelope "SEALED BID." Bids will be opened at 4:00 p.m. with award to be made at the 4:30 p.m. City Council meeting. The City Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

HELP WANTED

The City of Lebanon, KY will accept applications until 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 20, 2026 for the position of:

POLICE PATROL OFFICER

Experience and knowledge of modern police methods desirable; a twenty-week training course required by the Kentucky Justice Department of Training; preference for applicants holding KLEFPF police basic training certificate. Applicants will be required to pass written, physical, psychological and physical fitness examination and must also undergo a complete background investigation, polygraph, and oral interview.

Applicants must be twenty-one years of age and possess a valid Kentucky operator's license; must not have been convicted of a felony; must be a high school graduate or have obtained GED; must be able to deal with high stress situation; and must be willing to work various hours and weekends.

Applications may be secured from City Hall located at 240 W. Main St., John O. Thomas, City Administrator.

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