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Potter Jane announces first release

BY JANE REID KLEYN
 EDITOR@THSPRINGFIELDSUN.COM

More than a taste of bourbon, Potter Jane Distillery surprised guests with the announcement that the new distillery will be releasing its first 1,200 bottles of bourbon this week.

The release is being called "Big Vat Liar," and for good reason and in good fun.

Since the early planning stages of Potter Jane, founders Denny Potter and

Jane Bowie have stated repeatedly they would not be sourcing bourbon but would only bottle and sell bourbon produced at the Springfield distillery.

"That was a lie," said Potter. "We didn't mean to lie, we truly believed those statements at the time."

But things changed, and they were forced to reconsider and withdraw those earlier statements.

Although the Big Vat Liar uses bourbon distilled and

aged by another distillery, it is truly a Potter Jane unique blend. Bowie explained that although they purchased several barrels of bourbon from other distilleries, they worked tirelessly to perfect a blend of those bourbons to create a taste uniquely Potter Jane that gives connoisseurs a great tasting bourbon at a reasonable price.

Guests at the distillery for the announcement were treated to a sample of this first edition of Big Vat Liar

and invited to tour the facility and check out other blends in the works. Potter and Bowie said additional Big Vat Liar blends will be forthcoming as the young distillery patiently waits for their own brew to properly age. Potter Jane began operations in 2023, but even the earliest distilled spirits have to age for several years. In the meantime, while bourbon lovers wait, they can enjoy Big Vat Liar's custom blend of flavors.



JANE REID KLEYN/The Springfield Sun

Guests of Potter Jane Distillery got a preview taste of the distillery's first release "Big Vat Liar" on Wednesday, June 3. 1,200 bottles of this blend are set to be released this week.

Washington County's 2027 Distinguished Young Women



These 13 young women will compete on Saturday, June 13, for the title of 2027 Distinguished Young Woman of Washington County. They will be judged on scholastics, physical fitness, talent, communication skills, and more. The winner of Saturday's competition will advance to the 2027 Distinguished Young Woman of Kentucky competition in January.



Crown Recovery Center in Springfield is the largest facility operated by Addiction Recovery Care (ARC).

ARC CEO indicted on federal charges

BY JANE REID KLEYN
 EDITOR@THSPRINGFIELDSUN.COM

The founder, owner, and CEO of Addiction Recovery Care, LLC (ARC), Timmy G. Robinson, Jr., 50, was indicted in federal court on Thursday, June 4, 2026, for one count of wire fraud and two counts of money laundering.

The indictment alleges that in July 2025, Robinson caused ARC to enter into a sales agreement wherein the buyer made a \$2.7 million advance payment in exchange for ARC's rights

to an anticipated tax refund from the IRS called an Employee Retention Credit (ERC). This ERC was calculated based on ARC's payroll information for the first quarter of 2021. Then in September 2025, Robinson caused ARC to assign its rights to another ERC, based on the second quarter of 2021 payroll, to the same buyer. The indictment further alleges that in November 2025, Robinson caused ARC to sell the very same assets — its first and second quarter

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Jobless rate remains low in Washington County

BY JANE REID KLEYN
 EDITOR@THSPRINGFIELDSUN.COM

Washington County's unemployment rate is holding steady as the second quarter of 2026 begins.

The April 2026 rate for Marion County as reported by the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet was 3.7% almost the same as April 2025 when the rate was 3.6% and notably lower than March of 2026 when the records show a rate of 4.1%.

Unemployment rates fell in 66 counties between April 2025 and April 2026, rose in 41 counties and stayed the same in 13 counties, according to KYSTATS.

Woodford County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the commonwealth at 3.1%. It was followed by Fayette, Scott and Todd counties at 3.3% each.

Martin County recorded the state's

highest unemployment rate at 7.8%. It was followed by Lewis County, 7.6%; Wolfe County, 7.4%; Magoffin County, 7.2%; and Pike County, 7%.

KYSTATS reminds readers that Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends.

KYSTATS also release the Annual 2025 unemployment rates for Kentucky counties. Washington County was in the top ten tied for eighth place with an overall rate of 4% for 2025.

Those rates were higher in 75 counties, lower in 40 and the same in five (Carlisle, Hart, Mercer, Monroe and Powell) as the comparable, unadjusted 2025 state annual unem-

ployment rate of 4.6%, according to KYSTATS.

The latest annual report shows in 2025, none of Kentucky's 120 counties had a double-digit annual unemployment rate. Marion County reported a rate of 5.2% overall for the year.

The annual jobless rate for Woodford County was the lowest in the commonwealth in 2025 at 3.5%. It was followed by Fayette and Scott counties, 3.8% each; Boone, Oldham, Shelby and Todd counties, 3.9% each; and Bourbon, Campbell, Harrison, Jessamine, Kenton and Washington counties, 4% each.

Martin County recorded the state's highest annual unemployment rate in 2025 at 9.1%. It was followed by Magoffin County, 8.8%; Wolfe County, 8.5%; and Lewis County, 8.2%.

Compared to the national unadjusted 2025 annual rate of 4.3%, 95 Kentucky counties had higher 2025 annual rates,

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Houck arrested on perjury charge

BY PETER W. ZUBATY
 PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Nick Houck, brother of convicted murderer Brooks Houck, was arrested Thursday by Kentucky State Police on charges of perjury.

Nelson Circuit Judge Charles Simms III issued an indictment warrant Wednesday and Houck, 46, was picked up by KSP and taken to the Nelson County Corrections Center, where he was held on a \$25,000 bond Thursday afternoon.

Nick Houck has been mentioned in past court proceedings involving his brother in connection with the 2015 disappearance and presumed death of Crystal

Rogers, who was Brooks Houck's girlfriend at the time she disappeared. Brooks Houck was convicted of murder in connection with her death at the trial last summer. Also convicted were

accomplices Joseph Lawson and Steve Lawson.

While the indictment and news release does not indicate the arrest is connected with Rogers' death, the timing of the first-degree

perjury charge against Nick Houck suggests otherwise.

"That between the dates of July 15th, 2015, and April 16th, 2023, in Nelson County, Kentucky, the above named

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Nick Houck



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