

There Are Many Ways Newspapers Can Benefit Children

Newspapers have long been part of the fabric of the communities they cover and serve. Whether it's a big-city daily tabloid or a small town weekly, newspapers keep readers and residents up-to-date on the latest goings-on in their communities and across the globe.

Newspapers have been linked to a range of benefits for adults that include greater civic engagement and stronger voter turnout. Such benefits are indispensable, and it's equally important to recognize ways in which newspapers benefit children.

Reading and discussing newspaper stories can foster stronger language development. A 2022 study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health noted that parents who provide newspapers at home for their children to read and then discuss stories with young readers can help kids develop strong language skills, which could ultimately benefit them in the classroom and in their personal interactions. The study also noted that discussing newspaper stories with youngsters creates opportu-

nities for children to explore their thoughts.

Newspapers can help children develop their critical thinking skills. A meta-analysis examining ways to teach students critical thinking skills published in the Review of Educational Research noted that critical thinking skills are vital because they bolster students' ability to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and make inferences. Newspapers are an invaluable resource for educators aiming to bolster kids' critical thinking skills, as they can be used to teach students to recognize why

stories were written, how information in a given story was learned and gathered and how to verify information in a news story. Each of those lessons requires interpretation, analysis and evaluation, ultimately instilling in students vital critical thinking skills that can serve them in the classroom and beyond.

Newspapers help

students develop vital communication skills. A 2024 study published in the *Elementaria Journal of Educational Research* found that reading newspapers helped student participants in the study improve their vocabulary, enhance their writing skills and more effectively articulate their ideas. Authors behind the study ultimately

characterized newspapers as valuable educational tools, a conclusion that has been reached by researchers across a range of academic disciplines.

Newspapers are part of the fabric of the communities they cover, and children have much to gain from being granted access to their local papers in the classroom and at home.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY • COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

BY

ANNETTE BUCKMAN

COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT FOR 4-H

Bring The World To Your Backyard As A Global Exchange Host

Every summer, Kentucky 4-H families open their doors to a world of new cultural experiences as hosts for the States' 4-H International Exchange Program. In 2025, hosting families across the state welcomed 37 visiting youth and chaperones from Taiwan, Korea, and Japan for a four-week, culturally immersive experience. Organizers are currently inviting Kentucky households to share their hospitality with a new group of adventurous young travelers from the same countries in 2026.

Why do 4-H families volunteer to host? Although the visitors stay for four weeks, the benefits of serving as a host family last well beyond the time when they wave goodbye to their international guests.

"The goal of Kentucky 4-H is to give youth the opportunity to find what sparks their interests," said Chuck Stamper, Extension 4-H specialist and Kentucky international programs coordinator. "Being a host family allows Kentucky 4-Hers to be 'Beyond Ready' to live in a global world."

Most participating families are motivated to join by these five rewarding opportunities:

1. Experience a new culture without leaving home.

Hosting an exchange delegate brings the world to your doorstep. Your family can learn about new traditions, foods and perspectives firsthand—an enriching experience for everyone.

2. Build lifelong friendships.

4-H International Exchange programs often create bonds that last a lifetime. Many host families stay connected with their students long after the summer ends, forming an international network of friends.

3. Teach and learn together.

Your family can share your own culture while learning about others. It's a two-way exchange that fosters understanding, empathy and global awareness—an especially valuable experience for young minds.

4. Make a positive impact.

Hosting gives a young person the chance to experience life in a new country, practice language skills and grow personally. You'll play a key role in shaping their future.

5. Create unforgettable memories.

Summer hosting is short-term but full of fun! Barbecues, local trips and family traditions become special moments for both your family and the student.

To qualify for the hosting program, families must include a host sibling of the same gender within four years of age of the delegate (families with younger children may host a chaperone). Host families should have an interest in both learning about a new culture and sharing theirs with their new "family member." They should offer a friendly, welcoming home with an adult or older child present at all times for their visiting delegate. Host families provide delegates with three meals a day and their own bed or air mattress, and kids of the same gender may share a room.

The planned dates for this year's delegation trip from Taiwan are June 28 through July 26, and delegations from Korea and Japan will visit Kentucky from July 22 through August 17.

To learn more about the States' 4-H International Exchange Program, email Chuck Stamper at estamper@uky.edu or contact the Union County Extension Office.

Source: Chuck Stamper, Extension 4-H specialist and Kentucky international programs coordinator

4-H Happenings

1-27 Homesteading Club 4:00 –

5:30 p.m.

Follow Us On Facebook!

To keep up with all the fun events happening in the Union County 4-H Program follow Union County 4H on Facebook for all the latest news, events, and information about 4-H. There you will find interesting articles related to youth/4-H and much more!

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Staying Ahead Of Winter Blues

Submitted by Shea Heady

and look forward to brighter days ahead.

Contact your local Union County Extension office for more information.

FCS Happenings:

Laugh and Learn, a program to promote kindergarten readiness for children ages 2-5 will be on Monday, February 9th and continue on the second Monday of each month. Program is held at the Union County Extension Office from 10:00-11:00 am---please call 270-389-1400 to sign up.

Wits Workout continues at the UC Senior Centers. Morganfield Center on Mondays at 12:00pm and Sturgis Center on Thursdays at 12:00pm.

Heart Healthy Luncheon will be held on Thursday, February 26th at the Union County Extension Office. Health screenings will

begin at 11:30am with lunch and speakers to begin at 12:00pm. This is a free event, but you must call the office to sign up.

A food preservation series will begin on Tuesday, February 24th at 5:30pm. This class is informational only and hands on canning classes will be held in March and April. Call the office at 270-389-1400 to sign up.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

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Sebree, KY

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNION CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 24-CI-00261

PLAINTIFF

MID SOUTH CAPITAL PARTNERS, LP

vs.

BONNIE SUE STRAKER A/K/A BONNIE SUE WADDELL; COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF UNION;

MIDLAND FUNDING, LLC: MTAG AS CUSTODIAN FOR

MGD-KY, LLC: CITY OF MORGANFIELD, KENTUCKY;

UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY; BONNIE SUE STRAKER A/K/A; BONNIE SUE WADDELL; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS

OF 35 SENATE AVENUE

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Union Circuit Court on the 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025, I will on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026**, at the hour of **10:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as may be possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Union County, Kentucky, to-wit:

Property Address: 35 Senate Avenue, Morganfield, Union County, KY 42437

PVA No. / Map No.: M3-29-07

The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.

Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 6th day of January, 2026.

Stephen M. Arnett, Master Commissioner 1/28

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNION CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 25-CI-00013

PLAINTIFF

TAX BRAKE KY, LLC
vs.

STEPHEN SCOTT HANCOCK; CITY OF MORGANFIELD, KY;

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF UNION

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Union Circuit Court on the 22nd DAY

OF SEPTEMBER, 2025, I will on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026**, at the hour of **10:00 A.M.** or

as soon thereafter as may be possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Morganfield, Union

County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described

real property located in Union County, Kentucky, to-wit:

Property Address: 7 Congress Drive, Morganfield, Union County, KY 42437

PVA No. / Map No.: M3-26-04

The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.

Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the

balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with ap-

proved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per an-

num from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien

shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his

option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its

maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest

of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with

these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 6th day of January, 2026.

Stephen M. Arnett, Master Commissioner 1/28