

The Day Our World Changed Forever - 9/11

By Van Yandell

We arrived in Hamburg, Germany just after dark from Amsterdam. Walking a street a few blocks from the train station, we passed by a group of Middle-Eastern men. One was heard saying “Americans!”

Later my traveling friend told me they followed us. This was a little over a year before the 9/11 terrorist attack on America. We later learned that the terrorist staged in Hamburg and I will always wonder if those men we passed on the street and followed us were some of those hijackers.

Had they attacked us the possibility of their plans being discovered was extreme. That may have been what prevented trouble with those six men. We’ll never know for sure.

The morning of September 11, I had been to a local hardware store. When I pulled into the driveway, wife Margie came running out telling me “America is being attacked!”

We sat at the TV watching the disaster unfold and I remember thinking “I’m sure glad we’re here in our Western Kentucky home and not in New York.” A year before to the day we had been in New York with another couple.

The size of the World Trade Towers was overwhelming to this country boy. A work of architectural design, engineering and construction expertise, the towers were an impressive work of artistic de-

sign.

Early in the morning of September 12th, we received a call from our Disaster Relief team leader. Our team was headed to New York “tonight” and we were needed.

We loaded up our gear, which we kept packed for immediate call-outs, and left home bound for New York. We were to meet the DR convoy in Ashland, Kentucky but by the time we arrived they had already left.

We drove through the night but never caught up with them. We discovered at Raritan Valley church in New Jersey the next morning, they had stopped on the interstate to sleep and we had passed them. The DR convoy arrived a few hours later.

Total confusion was the perfect descriptor for the next few days. Finally on Friday of that week, national DR found us a place to set up, under the Brooklyn Bridge on the Brooklyn side of the East River.

The following is an excerpt from my article published September 2022:

“We crossed the Verazano-Narrows Bridge in the middle of the night, after one a.m. As we crossed the bridge, to the left, the Statue of Liberty was visible. Beyond her, we could see the smoke blowing out over the water from the destroyed twin towers. I remember saying to wife Margie, “Our world is changed forever.” Little did I know how accurate that statement actually was.

We arrived in the city

about two in the morning. The streets were not deserted at that time of night as I would have expected. Several people standing and talking waved at us as we approached our destination.

A silence existed in the city that was surreal. There were no sirens, horns, people chattering or construction noises as we had heard on previous trips. A pall of death, fear and apprehension hung over Manhattan like a dense cloud.

America, once again, went to war. Retaliation seemed logical, but the terrorists thought their attack was retaliation. They saw America as the invading force when we attacked Saddam Hussain’s Republican Guard in Kuwait in 1991. By invading their sacred land, the fight was on.

It is not my place to say if that was right or wrong but it started a fight that would last for generations. Actually, I should say it continued a fight that began 4000 years ago between Sarah and Hagar (Genesis 21: 10). Always remember, everyone is a terrorist to someone.”

Once in New York City, we set up the mobile kitchen unit to be ready to prepare breakfast for first responders by morning. The unit was capable of preparing 15,000 meals per day. Later, intelligence determined the Brooklyn Bridge was considered for a second New York target.

We camped out in a warehouse under the bridge. It was full of

supplies sent in by civic groups, churches, fire departments, school children and many others. We were told there were seven such warehouses around the city.

We had gone to New York in our Nissan pickup. We were drafted to haul supplies to Ground Zero. There was a fireman from Louisville with us. The three of us crammed into the front of the Nissan. Most loads were taken between midnight and dawn. We hauled gloves, coffee, lip balm, side grinders, sledge hammers, cheese crackers, peanut butter and anything else the site workers needed.

Near Ground Zero, even after a week or more, there was a smell in the air. Several times we smelled human flesh burning. We had grit in our teeth and probably in our lungs. Walking down a street near the site, even at night, we could see thick layers of gray, powdery concrete dust through store windows.

The on-site workers to whom we delivered supplies did not talk. When I asked where to put supplies, they usually just pointed. The only response I remember was a statement of appreciation when we delivered coffee pots and coffee.

We had little rest time during the days. During the day, barricades were blocking the site several blocks out from Ground Zero.”

All in all, our experience could be described as horrible, yet we saw a building of American patriotism and resolve

not seen in many years. “United we stand, divided we fall.”

Since then I have been accused of promoting Christian Nationalism for America. While that is not my intention, we must understand one of our most precious freedoms is freedom of religion. Lest we forget our experiences on 9/11, we must not forget the religion America was

founded on was Christianity.

Christians should promote freedom from the penalty of sin as a faith based belief in Christ Jesus, crucified and resurrected.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

Kentucky State Police Post 16 Troopers Will Conduct Traffic Safety Checkpoints

The Kentucky State Police would like to offer periodic reminders to drivers who travel area roadways. The agency strives daily to ensure the safety of the motoring public. Some of these proactive measures include various roadside safety checkpoints and saturating known problematic areas in the district through general patrol tactics.

The Kentucky State Police utilizes traffic safety checkpoints to promote safety for motorists using the public roadways and to provide

a deterrent for those who violate laws contained in the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

The intent of a traffic safety checkpoint is to provide for a high visibility, public safety service, focusing on operator impairment, vehicular equipment deficiencies (confirming appropriate registration and insurance of vehicles) and the valid licensing of drivers. Other violations of law and/or other public safety issues that arise will be addressed.

These checkpoints will allow the Kentucky

State Police the opportunity to periodically concentrate its efforts in checking for violations of Kentucky traffic and regulatory laws that will ultimately increase the safety of the citizens within the Commonwealth.

Post 16 serves the following counties: Henderson; Daviess; Union; McLean; Ohio and Hancock.

For a list of Post 16 road check locations, visit the KSP website: KentuckyStatePolice.ky.gov

Citizens can contribute to highway safety

by calling KSP toll-free at: (1-800-222-5555). Citizens can call to confidentially report impaired drivers or any criminal activity. You may also confidentially report crime tips electronically with the KSP Crime Tip Form.

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-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living is soliciting proposals from qualified applicants for services to older adults in the seven-county GRADD region: Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster Counties.

Separate Requests for Proposals are being solicited for service programs as follows:

- In-Home Services**
- Legal Assistance**

The Requests for Proposals will be available at the GRADD office beginning Wednesday, September 16, 2026, through Thursday, October 1, 2026, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST). Applicants may request a digital copy of the RFP by scanning the QR code below.

GRADD reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all proposals.

Applicants are advised that contract requirements include applicable conditions of employment, Section 109, Executive Order 11246, Title VI, and other applicable requirements. Minority applicants are encouraged to submit proposals.

All proposals shall be returned to GRADD by 1:30 p.m. CST (2:30 p.m. EST), Monday, October 26, 2026. Sealed proposals shall be returned to Kenneth J. Williams, Executive Director, Green River Area Development District, 300 GRADD Way, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. Proposals received after this time and date shall not be considered for review. Sealed proposals will be opened at that time.

This project is funded in whole or in part by funds from the U.S. Administration for Community Living and the Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living.
EOE.

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-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

CITY OF STURGIS, KENTUCKY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to K.R.S. 132.027, the City of Sturgis, Kentucky will hold a **Public Hearing on September 17, 2026 at 5:00 p.m., local time**, at the **City Council Chambers, 15 W 6th Street, Sturgis, Kentucky**, to hear comments from the public regarding a proposed 2026 real property tax rate of \$0.550 per \$100 assessed valuation and a proposed 2026 personal property tax rate of \$0.6529 per \$100 assessed valuation.

As required by law, this includes the following information:

	Tax Rate per \$100 Assessed Valuation	Revenue
Preceding Year's Tax Rate & Revenue Generated	\$0.524 (Real) 0.6567 (Personal)	\$ 211,919 \$ 17,064
Proposed 4% for 2026 & Expected Revenue	\$0.550 (Real) 0.6529 (Personal)	Anticipated Revenue \$ 214,541 \$ 17,961
2026 Compensating Tax Rate & Expected Revenue	\$0.529 (Real) 0.6209 (Personal)	\$ 211,919 \$ 17,079

All revenues received in excess of last year's revenue will be allocated to all general government expenditures. The Kentucky General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and the information contained herein.

Sandra Germane
City Clerk, Sturgis, Kentucky

PROPOSED TAX NOTIFICATION

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Union County Board of Education is proposing a general fund Tax Levy of 69.7 cents on real property and 69.7 cents on Personal Property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 69.6 cents on real property and 69.6 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$7,334,331.67. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 69.7 cents on real property and 69.7 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$7,810,312.42. Of this amount \$2,408,496.63 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 69.3 cents on real property and 69.7 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$7,779,232.21.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of \$475,981 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated as follows: Cost of collections \$7,140, building fund \$6,000 and \$462,841 to instruction and student support services.

This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470 and Section 73 of House Bill 757. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017.

The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.

9/9c