

The beauty of God’s love and forgiveness

I remember when I was around 10 years old, there was a girl at school who was a couple of years older than me who was constantly being teased and treated harshly. I can see her clearly, as if it were yesterday, even though it was over 50 years ago.

She was a stocky girl with tangled jet-black hair, and her clothes were often wrinkled, but what really caused the negative attention was her constant runny nose. There are many reasons why children are mean, but as a shy child, I’m ashamed to admit that I was a part of the crowd of spectators that quietly witnessed the daily harassment of this poor young lady. How I wish I dared to stop them,



BILLY HOLLAND
LIVING ON PURPOSE

but I was just a scared, skinny kid who was thankful that they were not picking on me.

After months of mean and rude comments, the rest of the students eventually learned who she was and made sure to stay far away from her. Not only was everyone afraid of catching her “cooties,” whatever that meant, they definitely did not want to be associated with her and risk being included as another target.

I rode the same bus as she did, and one afternoon, I observed an act of cruelty that was even more disturbing than the daily ritual of causing trouble. I will never forget that day, as it was one of those muggy fall afternoons,

and the bus was packed. I just wanted to get home.

There were a few older boys that we used to call rednecks who rode the bus, and they began their daily routine of taking turns hitting this girl on the head with heavy textbooks. We could tell it hurt by the sound it made. Of course, she started crying and telling them to stop, but this just made things worse. I felt very sorry for her and, even to this day, I become emotional when I recall this event. I think back and see myself as no better than a spectator at a Roman coliseum when Christians would be thrown to the lions. It’s no excuse that I was young, weak, and afraid.

Anyway, everyone was cheering and mocking when suddenly, one of the boys grabbed her book

bag and her purse out of her hands and started tossing everything out the window. I looked back and could see her books, notebooks, personal items, and papers blowing across the lawns as the bus barreled down the road.

I was in shock as I realized the importance of these things and, in my sadness, I wondered how anyone could be so vicious. This was beyond cruel, and just as sick is that I can still hear the crowd cheering and going into a frenzy with laughter. It seemed many thought this public display of brutality was entertaining and that it was somehow enjoyable to watch an innocent kid scream and cry. The bus driver was hollering for everyone to keep the noise down, but I’m not sure if he knew what was going on. The atmosphere was truly

a madhouse, and as far as I know, nothing was ever done about it. I will never forget the look of horror on her face.

When I was around 12, I was in a gym class with around 20 other boys, but somehow one boy had everyone in the class terrified of him. Why didn’t we stand up to him? Statistics show that one in every three kids are bullied, and most of these situations are commonly kept secret. Sadly, some individuals have taken their own lives because life just seemed hopeless.

Dan Pearce is quoted as saying, “People who love themselves don’t hurt other people. The more we hate ourselves, the more we want others to suffer.” Bullies are actually agonizing within their own conscience, and search for those they can punish to keep from

dealing with empathy. However, as deep and hurtful as these attacks may be, we can turn to God and ask Him to heal our hearts and help us forgive our enemies as we overcome the feelings of rejection and resentment.

Our dignity may be assaulted, vandalized, and cruelly mocked, but it can never be taken away unless it is surrendered. Let go of the animosity and allow God to help you find closure and rise above the trials as you press forward in the beauty of his love and the holiness of his forgiveness. If we cannot find peace within ourselves, we will not find it anywhere.

Dr. Holland is a Christian minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about LIVING ON PURPOSE at billyhollandministries.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
The second reading of a proposed Ordinance relating to the county budget will be held on August 17, 2026 at 9:00 AM in the Marshall County Fiscal Courtroom, 1101 Main St, Benton, KY. A copy of the proposed ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the Office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours. Kevin Spraggs, Judge/Executive



CITY OF BENTON, KY ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS
The City of Benton KY - City Council, will receive sealed bids for the **“BENTON SIDEWALK PROJECT”** on **Thursday August 13, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. CDT.** All Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Benton City Hall - Council Chambers, at 1009 Main Street, Benton, Kentucky 42025.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
This Project will consist of the construction of concrete sidewalks meeting ADA compliance and drainage, concrete sidewalks, improvements along a portion of W 8th Street (KY 408), Ash Street, Morningside Drive, W 7th Street, Powell Lane, W 6th Street, and Commerce Drive. This project also includes but is not limited to...grading, drainage, paving, entrance construction, permanent pavement markings, signing and landscaping improvements. All work will be completed in full accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

PRE-BID MEETING
There will be a pre-bid meeting held on **Wednesday, August 5th, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. CDT** at Benton City Hall at 1009 Main Street, Benton, Kentucky 42025.

OBTAINING CONTRACT DOCUMENTS
Electronic Copies of Plans and Specifications may be obtained by contacting:

Mike McGregor, PE
Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing, Inc.
2301 McCracken Boulevard
Paducah, KY 42001
mmcgregor@bfwengineers.com

Plans and specifications can be viewed and are on file at the following locations:

Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing, Inc. AGC of Western Kentucky
2301 McCracken Boulevard 2201 McCracken Blvd.
Paducah, KY 42001 Paducah, KY 42001

BID SECURITY
A satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the bidder or a certified bank cashier's check in an amount equal to **five percent (5%)** of the bid shall be submitted with each bid. No other forms of security will be accepted. Failure to submit a bid bond or certified bank cashier's check will result in disqualification of the bid.

PREQUALIFICATION
The Bidder's qualifications, along with all proposed Sub-Contractor's shall include, but be not limited to, being pre-qualified with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. **A copy of the Certificate of Eligibility for the Bidder and all proposed Sub-Contractor's shall be included with the Bid Proposal for proof of Qualification.**

BID EVALUATION - AWARD OF CONTRACT
After reasonable consideration of all bids received, a Notice of Award will be given to the **responsible bidder** who submits the **lowest responsive bid in accordance with the specifications.**

CONTRACT TIME
The Project Contract Time Period until 5/15/2027. Liquidated Damages will be assessed at the sum of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** for each consecutive calendar day thereafter until the Project is completed as provided in accordance with the Specifications.

CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS
This Project is funded by Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Funds and will require the Contractor and all Sub-Contractors employed by the Contractor to **strictly and fully comply** with all State and Federal laws and regulations identified within the Specifications. Failure to comply with these provisions during the duration of the contract shall be grounds for cancellation of the contract and disqualification of the eligibility for future contracts.

PREVAILING WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS:
This Project will involve the use of Federal Funds and therefore the Contractor and all Sub-Contractors shall comply with the Federal prevailing wage requirements. The prevailing hourly wage as determined by the US Department of Labor has been inserted within these specifications.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
The Contractor shall ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, religion, color, sex national origin, age or disability.

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE
The City of Benton has adopted a Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy in compliance with 803 KAR 25.280, in which drug and alcohol use and abuse in the workplace is prohibited. All contractors and subcontractors doing business for the City of Benton shall adhere to this policy.

OWNER'S RIGHTS RESERVED
No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of Sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids in accordance with the City's Code of Ordinances and the Project Specifications.

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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WALNUT COURT APARTMENTS BENTON HOUSING

Now accepting applications for 1 bedroom units. Must be 62, handicapped or disabled.

Phone (270) 527-3626

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

The Housing Authority of Benton (E.H.O.)

The Housing Authority of Benton is now accepting applications for 0 to 4 bedroom apartments in Benton and Calvert City.

For more information, call 527-3626

Working Families, handicapped & elderly receive first preference

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE NON-COAL MINERAL

Pursuant to Application Number 079-9506

1) In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Charlie Nelson Trucking and Excavating, LLC intends to permit a non-coal surface mining clay permit affecting 9.89 acres located at 210 Christian Fellowship Road, Benton, Kentucky 42025, in Marshall County.

2) The proposed operation is approximately 0.25 mile northeast of Christian Fellowship Road, at the end of Klay Road (public road). The latitude is 36° 54' 33". The longitude is -88° 19' 25". No closure or relocation of any roadway will be required.

3) The proposed operation is located on the Briensburg USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map. The surface area is owned by William and Chasity Harrod.

4) The application will be on file for public inspection at the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources (KDNR) Frankfort Office, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Written comments, objections, or request for a permit conference must be filed with: Director, KDNR Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement, Non-Coal Branch, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, with 15 days of the date of this advertisement and briefly summarize the issues to be raised at the conference.

SPEED LIMIT ORDINANCE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF MARSHALL
SPEED LIMIT
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF MARSHALL COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY in accordance with the provisions set forth in KRS 189.390(5)(a), and based upon the request of affected citizens and after review by the Marshall County Road Superintendent and the Marshall County Sheriff, the Marshall County Fiscal Court does hereby set the speed limit at 15 mph for the following road(s) located in Marshall County, Kentucky:

Harbortown Road

The forgoing Ordinance shall be published in The Tribune Courier on August 6, 2026.

1st reading on July 16, 2026
2nd reading on August 4, 2026

Passed by the Fiscal Court of Marshall County on August 4, 2026, on the motion of Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner McGuire.

KEVIN SPRAGGS
MARSHALL COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE

ATTESTED BY:
CORY DANIEL, CLERK

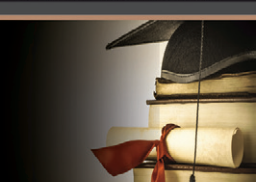
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Find & Buy.

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-JULES
Adopted in 2010

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