



GRACE BOATRIGHT JACHIM | Tribune-Courier
A number of community members attended a ribbon-cutting for the new Compass Counseling location in Benton.

Compass Counseling celebrates new location

BY GRACE BOATRIGHT JACHIM
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While Compass Counseling has operated in Benton for around two years, the facility celebrated a new building and an official opening with a ribbon-cutting on Aug. 31.

Located on the corner of Main Street and West Eighth Street, Compass Counseling's Benton location offers several different clinicians with a variety of specialties.

Following an introduction by Kentucky

Lake Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Wendy Baxter, Compass Counseling Owner Katie Englert spoke briefly on the time it took to find the best space, and introduced the staff.

"We've been around almost two years, and then we moved into this new space, trying to find the right space," said Englert. "[It] took us a little longer than we thought, and then to get it to where we thought our team and our clients would be comfortable coming to

to get therapy. So we've been around in Benton for two years now, almost, and just wanted to introduce our clinical team, primarily. They're the rock stars here that are here serving clients in this area."

The team consists of four clinicians and three administrative professionals. Attendees were given the opportunity to see the space, and refreshments were provided.

A number of community members and members of the chamber were in attendance.

County library continues focus on early childhood literacy

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While Dolly Parton may not have been from Kentucky, her impact on the literacy and education of children in the commonwealth is undeniable.

Currently 850 children in Marshall County are enrolled in the Imagination Library program.

The Marshall County branch of the program is facilitated by the Marshall County Public Library as one of many ways the library aims to facilitate early childhood literacy. In recent years, the Kentucky state legislature opted to provide 50% of the necessary funding to each county for the program.

Marshall County Public Library Director Tammy Blackwell shared that the Joe Tom Haltom Foundation provides an additional approximately 45% of the county's funds.

Blackwell emphasized the importance of the program, stating



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The Marshall County Public Library continues to provide several programs for early childhood literacy.

that the ability for children to access quality, age appropriate books has been repeatedly linked to success later in life.

"Studies show the most important indicator of future academic success is having access to age-appropriate books when they're young," Blackwell said. "More than education level of the parents, or parents' career, or income. Those things that we really think play into it a lot are not as important as having access to age appropriate books."

While providing that access is the primary

goal of the Imagination Library program, it is also a general library mission. Blackwell noted that the history of the modern library model traces back to Andrew Carnegie and his desire to provide better access than he had received.

"In the United States, really, a lot of our core, who we are as libraries, comes from Andrew Carnegie, who went from having nothing to being the richest man in the world due to books, due to studying, and putting into himself," Blackwell said. "He said

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then the next year we combined the two into just one larger health fair in the fall. We are partnering with Mercy Health again this year. They're offering free flu shots to the community, and we have several vendors that are coming to bring different community resources and education that day."

Because of that growth, the event is set to be held at Marshall County Hospital this year. Previously it has been held at the Benton branch of the Marshall County Public Library.



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Glover shared that, initially, the organization had prepared to see a decline in attendees because of the change in location; however, the amount of attention the event has seen on social media has quelled many of those fears.

"We are changing venues this year, and originally we were afraid that attendance might drop a little bit, but we're no longer concerned about that," Glover said. "We've seen a lot of people sharing it on social media. I've already

PUBLIC NOTICE

Benton schedules public meeting to discuss splash pad

Under the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578), citizens are afforded the opportunity to express their views concerning the recreational needs of their community. To provide a forum for discussion, City of Benton will be hosting an open meeting on:

Date: Monday, Sept. 21, 2026 Time: 4:30 p.m. (immediately prior to regular council meeting)
Location: Benton City Hall, 1009 Main Street, Benton, KY 42025
The specific purpose of the meeting is to discuss adding a splash pad to HH Lovett Park.
The public is invited

to review and voice their opinion on the proposed activities and potential impacts of the project.

Anyone wishing to support or oppose the proposed project can also submit written comments to the above address before Friday, September 18, 2026.

Bethany Cooper
City Clerk/Treasurer

Local band to hold benefit concert for basketball museum

BY GRACE BOATRIGHT JACHIM
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For several years now, a group of individuals has been working to establish the West Kentucky High School Basketball Heritage Museum. As a part of that effort, the organization has banded together with a music group for a benefit concert.

The group known as On Stage at DJ's has been performing together intermittently for several decades, but in recent years the group has largely focused on benefit concerts for local organizations.

The group's leader and namesake, DJ Hawes, found himself in conversation with the basketball museum's Executive Director Ed Jones, which led to the discussion of a benefit concert.

"I was in the bank one day," Jones said. "A lot of times we'll just talk. He works over there part-time. And we were in there, I said, 'DJ, how's things going? You playing any music?' 'Nah,' he said, 'We just do one concert a year.' I told him a little bit about what we're doing, and he said, 'Do you want us to do a concert for you?' And I said, 'Boy I sure do.'"

From there, plans began to fall into place. Jones took on ticket sales and advertising, while Hawes organized the musical elements and the concert itself.

The group plays a variety of music, with many country and gospel influences.

The concert is set to be held at the Kenneth Shadowen Performing Arts Center at Marshall County High School on Saturday, Sept. 19. Jones and Hawes have set the goal of selling out the auditorium.

While Jones and the museum's board have



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DJ Hawes leads a group known as On Stage at DJ's in hosting benefit concerts.

set their sights on a location for the museum, it has not yet been made available. Currently, the museum exists as a website, which Jones and others involved are using as a place to collect stories of various players and coaches from approximately 90 high schools in 13 counties.

Many of these schools no longer exist due to consolidation. Among the past schools in Marshall County are Brewers High, North Marshall High, South Marshall High and Benton High.

Once a physical location for the museum is secured, Jones plans to have a variety of memorabilia from each school on display.

"We're planning on building kind of like a locker space," Jones said. "It'll be lighted across there and it'll have pictures, basketballs, letter jackets, jerseys, anything that people want to donate. We will display it in a lighted cage. That'll be one of the things that we'll do when we get that [space]."

Jones and his board would like to place the museum at the Chambers Memorial Gymnasium, next to Benton Elementary School. Based on conversations Jones has had with members of the school board, he believes the Marshall County School District

would be agreeable to an arrangement, but currently athletic teams still use the space for practices.

Jones believes the school district is also interested in finding another location for those practices, but has not yet.

Jones' interest in the gym is multi-faceted.

Due to the size of the region being represented by the museum, Jones shared that the board considers Benton to be a relatively central location. The gym was also used by Benton High School, as well as in the early days of Marshall County High School. However, one of the primary draws of using the gym is the existing basketball court, which would give the museum the opportunity to hold scrimmages and special games as fundraisers to maintain it.

The organization is a registered 501(c)3, making all donations tax deductible.

The benefit concert will be held on Sept. 19, with doors opening at 6 p.m. and the show beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 and can be purchased in advance at any branch of the Marshall County Public Library. They can also be purchased through will call by calling (270) 703-3227. Tickets will also be available at the door.

almost completely filled my vendor spots, and we're still a month away. So I think that this is going to be the biggest one that we've had so far."

While an exact number of attendees is not kept, Glover estimated that approximately 150 people attended the 2025 event. This estimate took the number of flu vaccinations that were given and then estimated higher, as not all attendees received the vaccine.

In addition to flu vaccines, the 2026 event is set to see blood pressure checks, A1C checks, wound care screenings, eyeglasses adjustments, a variety of educational materi-

als, and much more.

For Glover, the event is a time to provide access to resources for those who may not have access to them, as well as to educate the community at large about resources they may be unfamiliar with.

"We look at the social determinants of health and public health, and that is your environment, how you live, how you play, how you pray, and a lot of people simply do not know what all is available in their community," Glover said. "So this is a one-stop shop that has so many resources available, and some of them are not even traditional healthcare

services, and that's so important because your whole health is more than just your physical health. It's your mental health. It's your financial health, and there are so many things that tie into it. And really, from a broader perspective, just letting our community see and make them aware of the resources that are available to them is instrumental to your overall health."

The event is set for Sept. 29 from 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at Marshall County Hospital. All booths will be offering free services and education. One food vendor will be on site offering sales.