

Donors needed now to stop alarming drop in Red Cross blood supply

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

The American Red Cross is declaring an emergency blood shortage as the blood supply fell nearly 25% in June. Blood donors are urgently needed to give now to help ensure patients receive lifesaving medical care without delay. The shortage is especially serious for platelets and types O positive and B negative blood.

A steep decline in blood donations since the end of May has created a growing gap between supply and patient need. Currently, Red Cross distributions to hospitals are nearly 3,500 units higher per week than

expected at a time when hospitals often see higher demand for blood products during the height of trauma season. On top of that, busy schedules and the seasonal loss of school blood drives are driving the decline which could put patient care at risk if not reversed.

The most important way to help end the blood shortage is to book an appointment to give blood now by using the Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). As a thank-you, all who come to give July 13-31, 2026, will receive a Fandango Movie Ticket by email (up to \$15 ticket

price and fees). Additional details can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/July.

BLOOD SUPPLY MISCONCEPTIONS

Every donation is critical to rebuilding the nation's blood supply, yet many people may not realize the significant impact a single donation can have on patients in need. A recent Red Cross survey revealed a significant gap between public perception and the reality of the nation's blood supply:

- Less than 1 in 5 respondents understood that blood cannot be stockpiled because it has a limited shelf life and must

be continually replenished through volunteer donors.

- Only about half believed it was very likely that they or someone close to them would need blood one day — even though someone in the U.S. receives a blood transfusion every two seconds.

“A readily available blood supply serves as the backbone of modern medicine. Without it, lifesaving treatments and critical access points to care are not possible,” said Dr. Courtney Lawrence, medical director for the Red Cross. “Emergency departments, operating rooms, and labor and delivery units can't support patients with the

most urgent needs, and cancer patients must wait. We're asking donors to give now before doctors are forced to make those difficult decisions.”

The next available local blood drive will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, at Trimble County High School in Bedford, to collect whole blood and “Power Red,” a process that collects red blood cells but returns most of the plasma to the donor.

Power Red donors — there were six appointments remaining as of Tuesday afternoon — must meet specific eligibility requirements and have type A Neg, B Neg, or O blood.

Ghost gun company ordered to pay \$100M in teen's death

BY JAKE OFFENHARTZ AND DYLAN LOVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A ghost gun company has been ordered to pay more than \$100 million in the death of a Kentucky teenager who had purchased the company's pistol-building kit online.

The verdict — believed to be the largest ever against a gun dealer — was awarded by a jury Wednesday following a trial focused on whether the vendor, Husky Armory LLC, skirted federal regulations barring the sale of the gun-assembly kits to those under 21.

EDITOR'S NOTE — This story includes discussion of suicide. If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988. There is also an online chat at 988lifeline.org. Helplines outside the U.S. can be found at www.iasp.info/suicidalthoughts.

In a wrongful-death law-



Tad Thomas, a lawyer for the family of Henry Willis, right, speaks at a news conference while Willis' mother, Laura Herp, looks on Thursday, July 16 in Louisville, Ky.

suit, the family of Henry Willis said he was just 18 when he purchased the Glock G19 pistol “build kit” from Husky Armory's website in 2023. He assembled the handgun in his garage — telling his father it was a transistor radio — and used it to end his life six days later.

Everytown Law, which represented the family, said the \$104.2 million payout was the largest ever reached against a gun

seller, surpassing the \$73 million settlement awarded to the families of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting by the rifle maker Remington.

It comes a little over a year after the Supreme Court upheld regulations enacted by the Biden administration that mandated serial numbers on the homemade weapons and required buyers to complete background checks and age verification.

Kentucky Kingdom Becomes the New Home of Jack O' Lantern Spectacular

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — (BUSINESS WIRE)—Jul 21, 2026—

Kentucky Kingdom is proud to announce that Jack O' Lantern Spectacular, one of the region's most celebrated fall traditions, will find a new home at the park this fall for its 14 th year. The event joins Pumpkins at Kentucky Kingdom, a family-friendly fall festival that offers more than 30 rides, themed food and beverage options, and more than 1,000 illuminated pumpkins. Now, a beloved community tradition meets the park's own to bring guests the most magical, immersive fall experience Kentucky has ever seen.

Jack O' Lantern Spectacular is produced in partnership with Passion for Pumpkins Inc., a multimedia production company with 25 years of experience

transforming landscapes into illuminated organic galleries. The immersive display features more than 5,000 hand-carved pumpkins by local artists and sculptors along one illuminated trail.

The combination of Pumpkins at Kentucky Kingdom and Jack O' Lantern Spectacular will offer guests an entirely new and elevated experience complete with rides and attractions after dark, shorter wait times, and on-site parking steps from the gate, all on one ticket. The fifth season of Pumpkins will now include the full Jack O' Lantern Spectacular experience, larger-than-life pumpkin sculptures, trick-or-treat stations with free candy, a hay maze, fall-themed photo opportunities, festive food, and live entertainment.

“This partnership brings together two traditions that have become part of fall in

Louisville,” said Carly Uglow, Director of Sales and Marketing. “We're excited to preserve the legacy of Jack O' Lantern Spectacular while introducing it to our guests in a whole new way alongside the rides, attractions, and family experiences that make Pumpkins at Kentucky Kingdom so special.”

Kentucky Kingdom is honored to welcome a tradition with such deep roots in the community. The move comes amid a transformational investment of more than \$33 million in the park from 2022 through 2026, as the park continues to evolve into Louisville's premier family-friendly destination. With Jack O' Lantern Spectacular now part of the season, guests can look forward to even more ways to create memories worth repeating in an atmosphere that celebrates the spirit of Kentucky.

TREES

FROM PAGE A1

those options cannot be

closed by the current company, the commission will look for another credit card company that can do that.

The savings on closing the two accounts also

amounts to about \$40 each per month or just under \$1,000 per year.

The next Bedford Commission meeting is at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

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LOT #2: 227 MERRIWEATHER AVENUE EMINENCE, KY, 40019. THIS IS A SINGLE FAMILY HOME CONTAINING 720 SQUARE FEET WITH TWO BEDROOMS AND ONE FULL BATH. THE LOT IS APPROXIMATELY 0.26 ACRES. THIS HOME IS CURRENTLY VACANT AND THE LAST RENTED FOR \$600 PER MONTH.

LOT#3: 116 AND 118 DOBNER WAY, EMINENCE, KY, 40019. THIS PROPERTY CONSISTS OF TWO MOBILE HOMES ON A LARGE 0.667 ACRE LOT. 118 DOBNER IS 24 X 60 AND RENTS FOR \$600 PER MONTH AND HAS THREE BEDROOMS AND TWO BATHS. 116 DOBNER IS 12 X 58 WITH THREE BEDROOMS AND ONE BATH AND RENTS FOR \$550 PER MONTH.

LOT #4: 188 MAPLE AVENUE, EMINENCE, KY, 40019, THIS SINGLE FAMILY HOME IS APPROXIMATELY 912 SQUARE FEET WITH TWO BEDROOMS AND ONE BATH. IT HAS HAD UPGRADES INCLUDING SOME FLOOR JOISTS REPLACED, UPDATED VINYL FLOORING, WATER HEATER AND FURNACE. IT CURRENTLY RENTS FOR \$600 PER MONTH.

PUBLIC INSPECTION WILL ONLY BE ON SUNDAY, JULY 26TH, 12 NOON TO 2:00 PM

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