OBITUARIES

Walter T. 'Sonny' McHargue



Walter T. "Sonny" McHargue, age 89, of Bedford, KY, passed away on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026, at the Norton King's Daughters' Hospital in Madison, IN. Born June 18, 1937, in Westport, KY, he was the son of Walter R. and Wilena C. (Webster) McHargue.

Mr. McHargue was a 1955 graduate of Oldham County, Kentucky, High School, and received a bachelor's degree from Campbellsville, Kentucky, College in 1961, where he served as senior class president, and a master's degree from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

He served in the United States Army on active duty from 1957-1959, and the US Army Reserves until 1964.

Mr. McHargue was a teacher, having taught at Vine Grove, Oldham County, Campbellsville, Lebanon-Marion County, and Trimble County Schools, where he began teaching in the 1972-73 school year, and from where he retired. During his teaching career, he coached several sports teams. He led the Campbellsville girls golf team to the championship and was the assistant coach of the Campbellsville boys' basketball team in 1966 when they went to state. He then became an assistant coach of the Oldham County boys basketball team and helped lead them to state in 1963. When he went to Trimble County, he coached the girls basketball team and led them to the state tournament in 1976.

He was a member of Bedford Baptist Church, the Trimble County Retired Teachers Association, a Kentucky Colonel, former member of the Selective Service Board, and a founding member and first treasurer of Quads, Rod and Custom car club in LaGrange, KY.

His surviving family includes two sons: Aaron McHargue of Bedford and Bentley McHargue and his wife, Crestal of Madison; and three grandchildren: Chris Rector, David Rector and Kaitlyn Green.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, the former Wanda S. Caulk, to whom he was married for sixty-two years before her death on January 15, 2023; and four sisters: Anna McHargue, Sarah Morris, Mary Etta Cook and Nancy Steele.

The Reverend Mark Payton officiated the funeral services held on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026, at Bedford Baptist Church, with interment that followed in Valley of Rest Cemetery, LaGrange, KY.

Ransdell Funeral Home, Bedford, was in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at ransdellfuneral.com.

Dennis Ray Staples

Dennis Ray Staples, age 78, of Bedford, KY, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026, at his residence. Born July 18, 1948, in Oldham County, KY, he was the son of Maurice R. and Dollie (Palmer) Staples.

Mr. Staples was a 1966 graduate of Trimble County High School and attended Western Kentucky University. He was drafted into the United States Army and served during the Vietnam Conflict.

His surviving family includes one daughter and son-in-law: Cheree and Todd Callis, of Bedford; one son and daughter-in-law: Jeremy and Sarah Staples, of Turners Station, KY; two brothers and sisters-in-law: Larry and Ruth Staples and Barry and Laraine Staples, all of Bedford; and five grandchildren; Macee Callis, Wyatt Callis, Brynlee Callis, Jolie Staples, and Brody Staples.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his wife, Brenda Jean (Gossom) Staples, to whom he married on Feb. 1, 1969, and who preceded him in death on March 5, 2000.

The Reverend Gregg Fisher will officiate the funeral services at 11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 6, 2026, at Bedford Cemetery, with interment to follow.

The family will receive friends at Ransdell Funeral Home, Bedford, from 5 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026, and from 9 a.m., until the time of services on Friday.

Ransdell Funeral Home, Bedford, is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at ransdellfuneral.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Richard Thomas Greene, 72, of Madison, IN, and formerly of Milton, KY, died Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026, at his residence in Madison. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Graveside service will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 16, at the Brooksburg Cemetery near Madison. Arrangements by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, www.morgan-nay.com.

Martha Ionia Bebout Hardesty, 86, of Sanders, KY, died Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026. Memorial service will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at Graham-Dunn Funeral Home in Carrollton, KY, www.grahamdunnfh.com.

Carole Louise "Bammie" Jennings, 75, of Trimble County, KY, died Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026, in Louisville. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, at Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, IN, with interment to follow in Moffett Cemetery in Milton, KY, www.morgan-nay.com.

Daisy L. Mefford Jones, 97, of Greenville, IN, and formerly of Madison, IN, died Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026, at Baptist Health Floyd Hospital in New Albany, IN. Funeral arrangements will be announed by Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre in Madison, www.morgan-nay.com.

Mark Christian Ray, 70, of Sparta, Gallatin, KY, died Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home in Carrollton, KY, with military Honors presented by the American Legion Post 41 Honor Guard at the funeral home, www.tandyecklerrileyfuneralhome.com.

Virginia Irene Durham Poynter Roberts, 82, of Campbellsburg, KY, died Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026, at Baptist East Hospital in Louisville. Funeral service was Monday, Nov. 2, at Ransdell Funeral Home in Campbellsburg, with private graveside services to follow, www.ransdellfuneral.com.

Judith Carlene Tilman, 72, of Carrollton, KY, died Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026, in Louisville, after a brief illness. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, at First Baptist Church in Carrollton. Arrangements by Tandy-Eckler-Riley Funeral Home of Carrollton, www.tandyecklerrileyfuneralhome.com.

$153 million of medical debt erased for 67,000 Kentuckians

BY MELISSA PATRICK
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Kentucky's medical debt relief program has erased $153 million in medical debt for 67,000 Kentuckians with its second round of letters, according to a news release from the governor's office.

The latest round of debt relief eliminated nearly $50.6 million in medical debt for more than 22,000 Kentuckians, working toward the program's goal of canceling $250 million for about 130,000 residents.

"Providing relief from medical debt can be life-changing for hardworking Kentuckians and we've seen that firsthand through positive messages from those who have benefited from this program," Gov. Andy Beshear said in the release.

The Team Kentucky Medical Debt Relief Program was established by Beshear through an executive order in September, in which he directed $2.5 million to Undue Medical Debt, a national nonprofit that purchases qualifying medical debt at a discount to then forgive the debt.

According to the release, the breakdown in Kentucky equals $100 of medical debt erased for every $1 spent.

Following the governor's initial announcement of the program, the first 46,000 qualifying Kentuckians had more than $100 million in debt erased.

Qualifying recipients of the debt forgiveness program do not apply. Instead, the nonprofit will identify them and send a letter to those who qualify.

"There is no application process for the Team Kentucky Medical Debt Relief Program, and debt relief cannot be requested. Eligible Kentuckians will receive an official medical debt relief letter from Team Kentucky and Undue Medical Debt. The letter will notify recipients of what debts have been erased and from which creditors. No further action is required of Kentuckians who receive a letter; however, it is recommended that the letter be kept for proof of debt erasure," according to the release.

Undue Medical Debt President and CEO Allison Sesso expressed her appreciation for Kentucky's partnership in this program.

"No one chooses to get sick, be in an accident or have a chronic condition, and no one should lose their financial stability or their shot at owning a home due to these debts of necessity," Sesso said in the release.

A Kentucky resident qualify if they owe at least 5% of their annual income for outstanding medical bills or earn at or below 400% of the federal poverty level, which is around $100,000 for a family of three.

The first round of notifications has been distributed and the second round of letters is expected to be mailed next week, according to the release.

Additional information about the debt-relief program can be found at MedicalDebtRelief.ky.gov.

LOOKING BACK

Looking Back from the pages of the Carrollton News Democrat and Trimble County Banner in early November from years gone by.

CARROLL COUNTY

1891

Attempted Hold Up

On a recent dark night a brigand attempted to hold up John Harsin at Notch Lick Bridge and would have probably been successful had not John's horse become frightened and hurriedly carried him beyond danger. Young men would do well to either stay all night with their sweethearts or else return to the paternal domicile before "night draws her sable curtain round."

Wedding

Ghent held a wedding in high society circles. The bride was Miss Maggie M. Tandy, the eldest unmarried daughter of the well-known Mr. John Q. Tandy. She is a handsome, popular and intelligent young woman. She was married on this happy occasion to Mr. James M. Ford of Georgetown, Kentucky, the present sheriff of Scott County. The groom is a decidedly handsome man concerning whom none but good report has been heard, while his appearance and demeanor show him to be a gentleman.

Locust Leaflets

C.A. Harsin's singing class will organize tonight.

Wm. Driskell purchased the Jump farm at Commissioner's sale.

L.D. Harsin is making an excellent road from his residence down the hill to Notch Lick.

English

Ben T. Robertson is building a nice little house on the English Turn-pike near his residence, to be used as a tollgate house.

1936

Heavy Snow

Carrollton was snowed under after a night of sleet, rain, and snow, which caused widespread damage.

With all previous November records of snowfall shattered, the highest before having been 5.1 inches, Nov. 17, 1920, the weather man predicts colder, then fair skies, and moderate temperatures.

Many trees were broken down, electric and telephone service were cut off in many sections and traffic was practically at a stand still with the snow continuing to pour down most of the day.

The trees had not yet shed their leaves and so collected great burdens of snow and the combination of late leaves and a record early snow was the cause of all the damage.

New Shop

The Economy Shoe Repair Service, specializing in quality shoe repair work at cash and carry prices, is ready to serve you. The new business, located on Main Street, above Fifth, is under the personal direction of Mr. Al J. Jasper, who has been engaged in this work for the past 18 years.

Resigns

An announcement was made this week by E.G. McCrackin of his resignation as cashier of the Kentucky State Bank.

Attending College

Students from Carroll County attending Kentucky Wesleyan College are Mr. Tony Raisor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Raisor; Mr. Riddle Stout, son of Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Stout; Mr. Eugene Tharp, son of Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Tharp, all of Worthville.

Carroll County natives attending University of Kentucky are James Orville Cannon, Ghent; William Cornett Cannon, Ghent; Paul Eugene Carraco, Carrollton; Thomas Oscar Harris, Worthville; Frances Isabelle Kipping, Carrollton; Willie Irene Swinney, Carrollton; Anna Mildred Tharp, Carrollton; John H. Way Jr., Carrollton; Joseph Key Wetherill, Carrollton; and Gex Orville Williams, Carrollton.

Sparta

Halloween was well carried out Friday night when a group of boys and girls, dressed as witches and goblins, paraded the streets until a late hour while the small boys engaged in pranks of all kinds.

2016

Zoning Changes

Changes to the C-2 Zoning Code Ordinance, which have been the topic at several Carrollton City Council meetings and a Planning and Zoning public hearing, came one step closer to reality at a special meeting.

Win Final Game

The Carroll County Panthers football team ended the regular season with a win, defeating Dayton on the road, 27-25.



FIle

Carroll County's Sierra Anaya focuses on the next obstacle as she exits the Army crawl obstacle while participanting in the Urban Ninja Warrior obstacle course in November 2016.



File

Trimble County's 4-H specialty act variety show performers were: Paul Hodge, Donald Coyle, Lauri Hodge, and Barbara Coyle, comedy act. Members presented songs, dances, drama, and cheers on stage during the Trimble County 4-H variety show in October 1976.

State Qualifier

Senior cross country runner Haley Dermon qualified for the state meet for the third straight season. She finished 12th with a time of 23:37.09 in the Class 1A Region 5 Cross Country Championship.

TRIMBLE COUNTY

1956

Arson

Fire bugs reigned supreme in Trimble county during the Hallowe'en climax of the past two nights. The end result of arson, more erroneously called "Hallowe'en pranks," has caused high money value loss to a number of farmers and establishments.

Reports coming in tell of 165 bales of straw being destroyed by fire on the Clarence Callis farm, another 365 bales of straw consumed by flames on the James Mosley farm. Straying afar from the role of pranksters, the arsonists and vandals burned great amounts of corn and fodder in the field and on the roadway nf the Carl Abbott farm.

Health Center?

Better health facilities are assured for Trimble countians with the announcement that through the minimum foundation of health service, the State has promised that construction on a new $50,000 center would begin in Trimble county this year. Whether or not the county gets the center depends on the voters' reaction to the health tax question to be voted on at the general election.

Resigns

Harvey G. Powell, who began his full-time ministry of the gospel six years ago when he was called as pastor to the Mt. Byrd Christian Church in Milton, has resigned his post and has accepted a call to serve as pastor of the Christian Church at Waynesboro, Virginia.

Tonsillectomy

Mr. Jr. Callis had his tonsils removed last Friday at Mallory-Taylor Hospital.

Stroke

Mrs. Charlotte Kendall suffered a slight facial stroke. Her condition is considered satisfactory.

1976

Second Phase

Now that Phase 1 of Bedford's 201 facilities planning has been completed, those attending a public hearing at the courthouse were told that the next step involved detailed schematics and architectural designing, plus conclusive adaptions for EPA orienting. Totally, the consensus of the attending amounted to: "Let's get started."

Hopes Bombed

Carroll Co. turned a couple of tricks at Carrollton and Trimble came home without the coveted treat of a district championship. It was typically Halloween trick or treat alright, because in the mechanics of football Trimble led in statistics. But Carroll Co. won the football game, 14-6.

Birthday

Mr. Bryan Moore enjoyed a surprise birthday party at his home. Those helping him celebrate were Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Moore, Mrs. James Rutherford, Mike and Lisa, Mr. and Mrs. Walton Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. Raph Harmon and Doug, Mrs. Nelson Moore, Mrs. Ann Alsup, Mrs. Louis Barnes, Miss Judy Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Joyce and Gretchen, Mr. Wiler Fresh.

2016

Celebrate

Bedford Loan & Deposit Bank will celebrate the financial institution's 125th anniversary with a community open house. The bank opened for business as a full-service bank on its present site at 45 Hwy 42E on Nov. 2, 1891.

New Business

Jen Grice-Perrodin has a fully equipped photography studio while Amanda Wright has homemade crafts and decorations for sale.

Wright said she was inspired by her children to do something for the community. She added that with her husband, Jeff Wright, working 100 plus hours a week, she needed to be doing something that allows her time to take care of her children. Jen Grice-Peroddin added that they wanted to create a place where they could fill a void in the community and be able to care for their children with disabilities. Both entrepreneurs expressed great interest in the community and the city of Bedford is happy to have them here.

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