

The Wolfe County News

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C. D. LONG - EDITOR

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NOTICE

KRS 149.400

KENTUCKY FOREST FIRE HAZARD SEASONS HAVE CHANGED TO FEBRUARY 15 THROUGH APRIL 30 AND OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 15

During the forest fire hazard seasons, even though the precautions required by KRS 149.375 have been taken, it is unlawful for any person to:

- 1. set fire to,
- 2. or to procure another to set fire to, any flammable material capable of spreading fire,
- 3. located in or within one hundred fifty feet (150') of any woodland or brushland,
- 4. except between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., prevailing local time, or when the ground is covered with snow.

*Other burning laws may apply. Check local ordinances and the KY Divisions of Air Quality and Waste Management before conducting any outdoor burning. REMEMBER, ALL FIRES SHOULD BE ATTENDED UNTIL EXTINGUISHED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL KENTUCKY DIVISION OF FORESTRY OFFICE.

Ky. Solons Comment On Court's Tariff Decision

Senator Rand Paul's Statement on SCOTUS Tariff Ruling

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dr. Rand Paul (R-KY) released the following statement in response to the Supreme Court's decision holding that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) does not authorize the President to impose tariffs: "The Supreme Court defended the Constitution by rejecting the use of 'emergency' powers to impose taxes. Tariffs are taxes, and the power to declare them belongs to Congress. That truth goes beyond this case. No future administration, including a socialist one, can use 'emergency' powers to get around Congress and tax by decree."

mand for bourbon whiskey understand this painful reality better than most.

"But as a matter of Constitutional authority, there is now no room for doubt: the use of IEEPA to circumvent Congress in the imposition of tariffs — already without precedent — is also illegal.

"Congress' role in trade policy, as I have warned repeatedly, is not an inconvenience to avoid. If the executive would like to enact trade policies that impact American producers and consumers, its path forward is crystal clear: convince their representatives under Article I."

Barr Backs Trump Reinstating Tariffs, Calls for Protecting America First Trade Policies following SCOTUS Decision

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, U.S. Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY-06) released the following statement after President Donald Trump announced he will reinstate the America First trade agenda following today's disgraceful Supreme Court decision:

"I fully support President Trump's decision to reinstate tariffs. We cannot stand by while the Supreme Court undermines the America First trade agenda. Here in Kentucky's Sixth Congressional District, Apple didn't just expand because of Trump's strategy—they moved 100% of iPhone glass production from China and other Asian countries to our District. Presidents Reagan, Bush, Obama, and Biden all used tariffs. It's time to end the double standards against Trump. I will stand with our President and protect American workers."

State funds for W.L. Vet Clinic expansion OK'd

Funded projects focus on ag diversification, rural development

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 20 — The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved \$700,317 for agricultural diversification and rural development projects across the Commonwealth Friday at its monthly board meeting.

Projects approved for county and state funding included West Liberty Veterinary Clinic Operations LLC, which was approved for up to \$83,333 in state funds and \$16,667 in multi-county funds as part of the Large & Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program to construct a new cattle working facility at its clinic.

"Diversity in our agricultural landscape spells success for our farm producers," Commissioner of Agriculture and Board Chair Jonathan Shell said. "The projects awarded today by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board increase the economic value farming has for our farm families and our Commonwealth."

Vet school OK'd for Murray State University

Murray State University has received program approval by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to offer a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), marking a significant step forward in its pursuit of a School of Veterinary Medicine.

According to a 2024 study by Deloitte, 80 out of Kentucky's 120 counties are currently designated as having a veterinary shortage or identified as an underserved rural area for veterinarians. The state of Kentucky currently does not have a school of Veterinary Medicine, and in the US, there are only 33 veterinary colleges accredited by the AVMA.

Murray State's Hutson School of Agriculture has the largest estimated pre-veterinary medicine/veterinary technology enrollment of any university in Kentucky, and is just one of three programs in Kentucky that is fully accredited by the AVMA.

Ky. school administrators' statement on combating grooming of students

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 23 — The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) is taking a clear and unequivocal stand: grooming and sexual abuse of students will not be tolerated in Kentucky's public schools. In a statement released Feb. 23, KASA stated:

"Protecting children is not simply a policy priority; it is a moral obligation and a matter of public trust.

"KASA's members operate under a longstanding Code of Ethics that requires administrators to uphold the highest standards of integrity in all interactions with students and to honor the public trust of their position above any personal or social reward. The public entrusts the well-being of its children to school leaders each day. That trust must never be violated.

"Sexual abuse of children remains a sobering national reality. According to data compiled by RAINN, nearly every minute, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. Every nine minutes, that victim is a child. From 2009–2013, an average of 63,000 children per year were victims of substantiated sexual abuse, and 93% of victims under the age of 18 knew their perpetrator.

"Abuse most often occurs at the hands of someone a child trusts, an adult with ac-

cess, authority, or influence. Grooming behaviors exploit that trust, gradually breaking down boundaries and creating secrecy and manipulation that can make misconduct difficult to detect without proper vigilance and training. While child abuse is a complex issue that spans many environments, educational settings must remain vigilant because trust relationships exist there as well.

"Public schools must be safe havens, places where students are protected, believed, and supported from preschool through graduation. While that is the mission of Kentucky's public schools, we acknowledge the painful reality that trust has, at times, been broken. Any instance of grooming or abuse is one too many, and consequences for any such violation must be swift and unequivocal.

"KASA is committed to a sustained, three-tiered approach to confront and prevent grooming in Kentucky's public schools:

- Raise awareness of grooming behaviors and warning signs.
- Integrate targeted professional learning for school leaders
- Advocate for public policy that strengthens prevention, reporting, and accountability.

"In upcoming professional development events, including the Education Law & Finance Conference and the Annual Leadership Institute, this approach will be embedded into leadership training. School leaders will be better equipped to recognize warning signs, respond appropriately, ensure compliance with mandatory reporting laws, and uphold the highest standards of accountability.

"Above all, we affirm our unwavering commitment to believing and supporting victims. Kentucky's school leaders understand that integrity is not theoretical — it is demonstrated in action. As trusted leaders in our schools and districts, we are committed to confronting this issue directly, removing and penalizing those who violate their positions of trust, and continuing to work to ensure our schools remain places of safety, dignity, and care for every student."

KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,300 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups and provides numerous benefits to Kentucky's school administrators.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Representative Timmy Truett

Child Care, Public Safety, Education Top House Orders

Feb. 23 — In the Kentucky legislature, the term "Orders of the Day" refers to the official agenda of business that either the House or Senate will consider on a given day. It lists the bills, resolutions, and motions scheduled for debate, amendment, or vote on the chamber floor.

Before a bill reaches the Orders, it must follow a structured process. First, it is filed by a legislator and assigned to a standing committee based on subject matter. The committee reviews the bill, holds hearings where testimony from the public, stakeholders, and experts can be presented. Bills must receive at least one hearing before being reported out of committee, though some legislation may have multiple hearings. Once a committee approves a bill, it is either placed on the Orders of the Day or re-assigned to another committee for further consideration. This happens a great deal with bills that would cost the state money or impact multiple agencies or programs. Once it clears the committee process, legislation is placed on the Orders of the Day and ready for full House (or Senate) consideration. However, just because legislation is on the Orders does not mean it will pass the House, simply that it is ready to be considered.

The Orders are basically an agenda, ensuring an organized flow of legislative business and providing members and the public notice of what will be considered each day. Here are a handful of the bills that were on the Orders and cleared the House this week:

HB 6 expands safe, affordable child care for working parents, removes barriers for children with disabilities, and promotes community-based innovation. It strengthens the Child Care Assistance Program, enhances quality ratings, improves transparency, and permanently establishes the CCAP income exclusion - creating a more accessible, high-quality system that supports families and children statewide.

HB 10 would strengthen accountability, transparency, and continuity of government during gubernatorial transitions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

HB 139 would strengthen

Kentucky's election system by ensuring only eligible voters are on the rolls, standardizing candidate filing forms, and requiring timely delivery of election materials and faster results reporting. It sets school district boundaries before school board filing deadlines, adjusts common school tax rate elections, requires districts to post election bonds, mandates pre-election testing of tabulating equipment for all elections, updates write-in procedures, allows withdrawals to trigger party nominations, and bars officials from certifying votes for deceased, withdrawn, or disqualified candidates.

HB 213 would provide city and county governments and universities the ability to re-employ retired police officers without incurring employer retirement contributions.

HB 257 would shift Kentucky's education accountability to a growth-focused model by modifying the state system in four ways: reducing state testing, tracking individual student growth, allowing districts to adopt local quality indicators to boost community engagement, and prioritizing attendance. Kentucky would join 36 states using chronic absenteeism as an accountability measure.

HB 414 would help law enforcement solve and prevent crime, as well as exonerate the innocent by authorizing local law enforcement to collect DNA samples from individuals charged with a felony at the time of arrest, booking, or initial appearance at a local jail.

HB 455 would restrict the use of artificial intelligence by licensed professionals in therapy and psychotherapy services, such as licensed psychologists and licensed clinical social workers. The measure would

not apply to religious counseling, peer support, or self-help materials and educational resources that are available to the public and do not purport to offer therapy or psychotherapy services.

HB 485 would modernize Kentucky's mental health statutes to ensure those suffering from mental illness get proper care and treatment and improve public safety by ensuring appropriate treatment and legal processes.

HB 529 would update statutes relating to the appointment, service, and operation of the Kentucky Parole Board, ensuring consistency, transparency, and functionality in parole decision-making while maintaining a strong focus on public safety and victims' rights.

HB 562 would expand educational and workforce opportunities for students with disabilities by creating an additional high school diploma option for eligible students who currently receive only a certificate of completion.

HB 577 would strengthen and expand the Kentucky Innovation Act to better support entrepreneur-led economic growth and attract talent, investment, and emerging companies to the Commonwealth.

HJR 50 would direct the state auditor to study the applicable statutes, administrative regulations, and agency policies that impact the opening and operating of licensed and certified child care centers and report findings and recommendations to the legislature.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.



DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?

The Wolfe County News welcomes your comments about current events in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number for verification.

Letters to the Editor should be brief and to the point, no more than 500 words. The News reserves the right to edit (or reject) all letters submitted for publication.

Letters should be mailed to:

**The Wolfe County News
P.O. Box. 129
Campton, Ky. 41301**

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor or guest editorials are not necessarily those of the publisher.

RECIPE

BANANA OATMEAL COOKIES

- 2 ripe bananas
- 1 cup oats
- 1/3 cup chocolate chips or raisins

Mash bananas, mix with oats and chips, scoop onto a tray, and bake @ 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

Tuesday deadline for news and ads

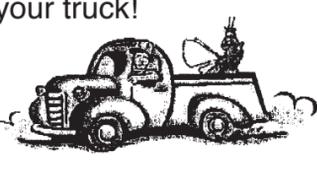
Advertising and news items must be in the Wolfe County News office by noon on Tuesdays to be considered for publication that week.

—Editor

LOOK OUT!

There may be a litterbug in your truck!

Tossing trash like cups, cans or bottles in the bed of your truck creates litter when it flies or rolls out the back. This trashes our community.



NOTICE: All political advertisements MUST be submitted no later than 3 p.m. the Friday before the desired week of publication. Thank you.