

# Governor announces end to out-of-state marijuana purchases

MELISSA PATRICK  
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Kentuckians will no longer be allowed to bring medical marijuana from other states into Kentucky, but will instead need to apply for a Kentucky medical cannabis card.

Gov. Andy Beshear announced on June 11 at his weekly news conference that he was ending his 2022 executive order providing conditional pardons to Kentuckians suffering from eligible conditions who purchased medical cannabis out of state. The order will end on July 1.

"This step was taken before I signed legislation legalizing medical cannabis in Kentucky in 2023," Beshear said. "Now that medical cannabis is readily available, we're going to end the conditional pardon starting on July 1 of this year . . . because we now know that there is enough and we can tell you what's in each and every one of those products."

Beshear said 33 medical marijuana businesses are now approved to operate in Kentucky, including 11 cultivators, two safety compliance facilities, three processors and 17 dispensaries. Further, he said more than 24,000 Kentuckians have been approved for medical cannabis cards, and nearly 500 practitioners are registered to issue certifications.

Beshear also pointed to an executive order he'd signed earlier this month to "clarify" that the state law includes 15 additional qualifying conditions, including terminal illness, sickle cell anemia, ALS, Parkinson's disease, HIV, AIDS, Huntington's disease, muscular dystrophy, cachexia or wasting syndrome, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, neuropathies,

severe arthritis, fibromyalgia and glaucoma.

Kentucky's original law allows access to medical marijuana for certain medical conditions, including any type or form of cancer, severe or chronic pain, epilepsy or other intractable seizure disorder, multiple sclerosis, muscle spasms or spasticity, chronic nausea or cyclical vomiting syndrome and PTSD.

The Beshear administration asked the General Assembly to add 16 medical conditions to the state's medical cannabis program during the 2026 regular session, but they did not act on this request. At the Tuesday, June 9 Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary meeting, Kentucky House Majority Whip Jason Nemes, R-Middleton, called the executive order an "unlawful expansion" of the current law and urged Attorney General Russell Coleman to make sure organizations and licensees that participate in this expansion are prosecuted.

At his weekly press conference, Beshear did not name Nemes, but said, "I was really surprised to see an attack from one lawmaker who called on the Attorney General to prosecute people dying of a terminal illness for securing medical cannabis. I mean, that's a complete lack of humanity."

In response to Beshear's comments, Nemes told Sarah Ladd with the Kentucky Lantern that they were "unfair."

"I said, licensee. I'm not talking about a sick person," he told Ladd. "For six years, I've put everything I had in that bill and got it passed."

He added that he wants to see conditions expanded in the future, but not before the program is fully operational, Ladd reports.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Elmer "J" Corley**, 82, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Monday, June 8. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Bobby Mullen**, 63, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Tuesday, June 2. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Mary F. "Dolly" Williamson Travis-Gresham**, 98, of Paducah, KY, passed away on Saturday, June 6. Morgan's Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Carol Ann Courtney**, 63, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, June 10. King's Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Darcy Paschall**, 76, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, June 3. Maddux-Fuqua Hinton Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Laura Kay Pavelchik**, 69, of

Allensville, KY, passed away on Wednesday, June 10. Latham Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Cheryl Elaine Batson "Cheri" Montgomery**, 61, of Sharon Grove, KY, passed away on Friday, May 22. Latham Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Bill Rager**, 87, of Cadiz, KY, passed away Thursday, June 11. Goodwin Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Beverly Martin**, 80, of Cadiz, KY, passed away Friday, June 12. Goodwin Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Norman Rose Sellers**, 87, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away Friday, June 12. Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Michael Ray Criswell**, 69, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away Friday, June 12. Maddux-Fuqua-Hin-

ton Funeral Homes is assisting with the arrangements.

**Emma Alice Elizabeth Knight**, 91, of Taylorsville, KY, passed away Saturday, June 13. Gamble Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Mary "Faye" Jourdan**, 88, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away Saturday, June 13. Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

**Mary Bullion**, 76, of Elkton, KY, passed away Saturday, June 13. Latham Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

The Eagle Post publishes death notices at no charge. Basic obituaries, which include memorial and funeral information, are \$10. The cost of full obituaries varies according to length. Both types of obituaries are published daily at kentuckynewera.com. Your local funeral home can assist in placing an obituary.

# No cases in Kentucky, but ag officials are monitoring

BY CASEY SEBASTIANO  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Kentucky agriculture officials are vigilantly monitoring a serious pest which the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced has returned to the United States.

So far, the New World Screwworm has been confirmed in Texas and New Mexico, the USDA says. Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell released a statement this week emphasizing that no cases have been detected in Kentucky as of June 10 and said the department is monitoring the situation.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture issued guidelines June 5 of large animal movements from Texas to Kentucky to prevent the spread of screwworms to the Commonwealth.

Any animal with clinical signs of screwworm infestation are prohibited from entering Kentucky. Large livestock originating from Texas must have a certificate of veterinary inspection 72 hours before entry, a Kentucky permit number and screwworm treatment notation.

A signed statement saying



U.S. Department of Agriculture

**This enlargement of a New World Screwworm larva showing the mouth hooks they use to consume living flesh.**

livestock were free of screwworms by the Kentucky USDA Veterinary Services, Kentucky Office of Veterinary Services and a private Kentucky attending veterinarian is also required.

If livestock from "Texas counties of concern," are to be moved to Kentucky, they will require a special application alongside heightened requirements.

The guidelines are effective through Aug. 1 and may be amended after that date. Details are subject to change prior to Aug. 1.

Less commonly posing a threat to humans, the USDA said, the current risk

to people in the United States is low. In animals, an infection can be fatal if left untreated.

Screwworm infestations occur when an adult female screwworm fly lays eggs in a wound or body opening causing larvae to hatch, burrow in the wound and feed on living tissue. Their feeding behavior is how they earned the name "screwworm," the CDC said.

After approximately one week, the larvae detach from the host, turn into a pupa and go through metamorphosis. Depending on climate, after anywhere between seven and 54 days, the adult fly emerges. Screwworms can only

spread through larvae infestation and are not contagious. They cannot spread from animal to human or human to human.

The USDA said screwworms cannot be transmitted through meat, poultry, fruits, vegetables or dairy products and are not a safety issue.

Only four cases have been confirmed in the southwestern U.S. to date.

In 1933, the USDA said screwworms made their way to the Southeast United States within one year, ranchers reported cases in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The USDA's 1931 annual report detailed the Entomology Research Branch conducting studies starting in 1929 regarding fly trapping as a way to reduce the number of screwworm cases in livestock.

Screwworms were eradicated in the Southeastern United States in 1959 through the sterile insect technique, which the International Atomic Energy Agency said is an environmentally friendly sterilization technique using radiation on the insect's reproductive cells.

## CIRCUIT COURT ACTION

**The following indictments were released by the Christian County Circuit Court Clerk's Office:**

**Robert Bedell**, 42, of Hopkinsville, was indicted on the charges of possession of controlled substance, 1st degree, 3rd offense, methamphetamine, while armed; convicted felon in possession of a handgun; receiving stolen property, firearm; drug paraphernalia, buy/possess; operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance, 1st offense; license plate not legible; failure to dim headlights.

**Tony Snyder**, 51, of Hopkinsville, was indicted on the charges of possession of synthetic drugs, 2nd offense; drug paraphernalia, buy/possess; possession of marijuana; operating on a suspended or revoked license; possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle; speeding.

**Brandon Cummings**, 27, of Hopkinsville, was indicted on the charges of burglary, 1st degree; unlawful imprisonment, 2nd degree.

**John Mendola**, 67, of New York, NY, was indicted on the charges of criminal possession of a forged instrument, 2nd

degree, 2 counts; theft by deception, \$1,000 < \$10,000, attempt.

**James Stull**, 39, of Bellevue, was indicted on the charges of carjacking; robbery, 1st degree; escape, 2nd degree.

**Elijah Boodoosingh**, 31, of Hopkinsville, was indicted on the charges of escape, 2nd degree; carjacking; robbery, 1st degree.

**Jessica Hamby**, 46, of Hopkinsville, was indicted on the charges of violating graves, complicity; abuse of corpse.

**Demetrius Williams Jr.**, 24, of Hopkinsville, was indicted on the charges of assault, 2nd degree.

**Matthew Willis**, 22, of Hopkinsville, was indicted on the charges of convicted felon in possession of a handgun; using restricted ammunition during felony; improper display of registration plate; rim or frame obscuring; lettering or decal on plate.

**Lauvenia Webb**, 44, of Hopkinsville, was indicted on the charges of possession of controlled substance, 1st degree, 3rd offense, methamphetamine; possession of marijuana; rim or frame obscuring; lettering or decal on plate; excessive windshield or window tinting.

## TOWN CRIER

### UPCOMING

• The Christian County Democratic Committee will host the **Juneteenth Fish Fry** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, June 19 at 2nd and Vine Street.

• Jeffers Bend Environmental Center will host **Benefit for the Bend** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 20 at the Christian County Cooperative Extension Service. The event will include a meal, homemade desserts and a silent auction.

• The Pennyroyal Arts Council will host the **Hopkinsville Chamber Orchestra and Chorus Inaugural Concert** from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 20 at the Alhambra Theatre. The event is a debut performance of regional musicians, vocalists and "world-class guest artists".

• Sanctuary Inc. will host **The Chair Project 2026** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, June 26 at Hopkinsville Brewing Company. The event is meant to be a silent auction to raise money for Sanctuary Inc.

• **The Western Kentucky State Fair** will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 26 at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds. The fair will take place through Saturday, July 4.

• Charter Senior Living of Hopkinsville will host **Bingo, Bites and Bougie Bags** at 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 26 at Charter Senior Living of Hopkinsville. The event will include a game of bingo, a silent auction

and food, and is meant to support the Alzheimer's Association.

• Sanctuary Inc. will host **The Chair Project 2026** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 26 at the Hopkinsville Brewing Company. The event is meant to raise funds for Sanctuary Inc.

• The Christian County Literacy Council will host **Stars, Stripes and Storytime** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 27 at the Hopkinsville-Christian County Visitors Center. The Literacy Council and The Daughter of the American Revolution will present uniforms and outfits worn 250 years ago, and have a story time of America's beginning in honor of the United States of America's 250th birthday.

• The Challenge House will host the **2026 AT&T Program** from June 29 to July 6 for Challenge House 3,4 and 7 neighborhood teens, and Challenge House 1,2 and 5 neighborhood teens July 27 to August 6. The program allows local students, grades 10, 11 and 12, to be guided in building a resume, skills, interviewing, etc.

• Men2Be will host a **Hopkinsville Emerald City Gala** on Saturday, Aug. 1 at The Silo. The event will focus on impact, purpose and fundraising.

### ONGOING

• The **Pembroke City Commission** meets at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at Pembroke

City Hall, 222 S. Main St.

• The **Rotary Club of Hopkinsville** meets at noon every Tuesday at the War Memorial Building, 1202 S. Virginia St.

• The Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library, 1101 Bethel St., offers an **Epic Hour** at 5 p.m. every Tuesday. This is a one hour long free program for school aged children. For more information, call 270-887-4262.

• The Book and Bottle Shop offer a **Silent Book Club** from 5-7 p.m. every Tuesday at the store, 123 E 9th Street.

• The **Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library** board meets at noon on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the meeting room at the library. The meeting is open to the community.

• The **Oak Grove City Council** meets at 6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at city hall.

• The **Christian County Fiscal Court** meets at 8:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in the fiscal court room, 511 South Main St.

• The Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library offers a **Children's Storytime** at 10 a.m. every Wednesday at the library, 1101 Bethel St. Children can enjoy stories, music, and movement activities. This is for infants to preschool-aged children. For more information, call 270-887-4262.

• The **Hopkinsville Brewing Company Run-**

**ing Club** meets every Wednesday at the brewery from 5-8 p.m. It is open to all ages and abilities from walkers to sprinters, and strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

• The **Museums of Historic Hopkinsville-Christian County Board of Directors** meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at the Pennyroyal Area Museum. The meetings are open to the public.

• The **Kiwanis Club of Hopkinsville** meets at noon every Thursday at the War Memorial Building, 1202 S. Virginia St.

• The **City of Elkton** meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Elkton City Hall, 71 Public Square, Elkton.

• The **Hopkinsville**

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