

OBITUARIES/COMMUNITY

HEZEKIAH THURMAN CURTSINGER



America. He took pride in providing for his family and was always willing to lend a helping hand to his family, neighbors or friends.

Hezekiah enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, and cheering on the CATS! He loved his church, family gatherings, his grandchildren, and great grandchildren, fish fries, and being involved in the KY Long Rifle Association. Above all, Hezekiah was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has offered prayers, love and support during this difficult time. Although we will miss him every day, we have comfort in knowing he is with our Lord. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten. His love will remain in our hearts forever.

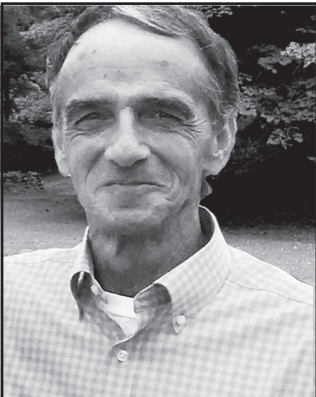
Family and friends were invited to pay their respects and celebrate his life on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals. Visitation was from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. Following the visitation, a celebration of life service began at 1 p.m. with Pastor Robert Kidd officiating.

Burial followed at the Clearfield Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Earl Kidd, Charlie Kelly, Drew Southerland, Josh Curtsinger, Chris Curtsinger, and Paul Ramey.

Arrangements are under the direction of Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals, 400 Fraley Drive, Morehead, KY 40351

View memorial tribute or sign online guestbook at www.northcuttandson.com

RICK SPARKS



Sparks, Hannah Sparks, Ray Sparks, and Lucius Warren; as well as nieces and nephews, extended family and friends.

Rick graduated from Rowan County High School in 1975. Throughout his working years, he was employed by Jim Day Distributors, Kerns Bread, and Energy Management Services before retiring from Toyota in Georgetown last year. In his free time, he enjoyed fishing, gardening, watching dirt track racing, playing Bingo, and, most of all, spending time with his family. He also shared a special bond with his beloved German Shepherd, Cole, who brought him great joy and sadly passed away on July 4, just one week before Rick. Rick will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew and loved him

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, July 17, 2026, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel with Pastor Mark Caldwell and Jamie Sparks officiating.

Visitation is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 16, 2026, at Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals, 400 Fraley Drive, Morehead, KY 40351

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Growing Morehead cont. from pg. 1

been an estimated 546,000 visitors to the area, and that has been a statistically consistent number over the last four years.

He noted that the daytime population of Morehead is 22,000, which includes people from the surrounding eight counties who come to work, shop, eat, and get health care.

Among businesses statewide, Slone noted that some of Morehead's larger businesses, including Wal-Mart, rank or have ranked in the top five in the state. The same is also true of local small businesses.

“There is a lot to be proud of,” Slone said.

Slone then gave an update on several ongoing projects. He said Eastern Light Distilling, a craft bourbon distillery, is currently working on C-PACE financing, which allows longer-term financing for capital projects which aim to use clean energy in their operations. Slone said construction on the distillery, which will be located near the Morehead/Rowan County Regional Airport, is scheduled to be begin in October, and they are expected to be operational by the 2nd quarter of 2028.

He reported that discussions are still ongoing to increase natural gas capacity at the industrial park on 801. Slone said that Delta Natural Gas has made a filing with the Public Service Commission approved, and now they are in negotiations with Kinder Morgan, which owns a larger nearby gas line to which they want to tap into. He said the timeline for this project is 18 to 22 months.

Slone noted that Rajant, also located at the industrial park, is planning on a 30,000 square foot expansion

of their facilities. He said Economic Development Commission has applied for a grant from the Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDI), which finances infrastructure and transportation projects, to seek funding for a road connecting Appalachia Way (which leads to Mastronardi Produce) across an 80-acre tract owned by the county, to Community Way. The project is expected to cost \$1.6 million.

He said he has attended numerous community development meetings this year, and while there has been a lot of positive conversation, the availability of site-ready land in Morehead is a problem, creating limited opportunities for development. He said the focus has been on possible redevelopment of existing properties.

Slone also gave an update on the local YMCA project. He said the local committee is working closely with the Limestone Family YMCA in Maysville to help bring this about, with Parks and Recreation Director Matt Hamilton as chairman. A YMCA would provide year-round indoor recreation as well as child care availability, Slone said, but they are currently working on a “Y without walls” for Morehead, which would include before and after care in co-operation with Rowan County Schools and Limestone YMCA. He also noted that a summer YMCA day camp is being scheduled next year.

Slone ended by noted that the Morehead-Rowan County Chamber of Commerce has grown by 51 new members this year, and he said they are always looking for ways to strengthen Morehead's own business community. He noted

that the recent Chamber golf scramble was the largest ever, with 150 people; the annual Women's Business Roundtable was the largest yet; they hosted a recent Workforce Conference; and there is the upcoming Business Roundtable scheduled for July 30, which will seek to gain information about local business needs.

Council members had several questions for Slone following his report. Slone noted that the estimated total daytime population for Rowan County was 30,000-40,000. He added that KY32/Flemingsburg Road is one of the most heavily traveled stretches of road in the state, with 28,000 cars a day between US 60 and the UK St. Claire Hospital, and 28,000 – 30,000 each day from Fraley Drive to Viking Drive. He said in 2025 there were 2.6 million visitors to the Morehead Wal-Mart, and he asked where people go after they shop there. He also addressed the educational attainment for Rowan County residents, noting that Rowan is only one of five counties in the state with both a state university and a 2-year community college campus. “We have a great workforce in Rowan County. He also noted that there will be a need for water/sewer improvements along the eastern side of KY 801. He ended by saying that while it does take taxes to keep providing essential services, the real problem is rising costs.

During his monthly update, City Planner Rodney Fouch reported there were 50 to 60 new permit applications over the past month, including for food trucks in the city and permits for Huck's stormwater structures, gas pumps, and

restaurant and store. He also provided updates on new businesses to the city, including First Street Dental Clinic, the new fire department building, the new dentist's office on Viking Drive, and ongoing construction of 12 new apartments on East Main Street.

In other matters, a Trace Creek Construction representative Scott Gevedon gave an update on the new Morehead Fire Department building. He said the roof was completed, and they are working to complete the outside wall panels, trim, and guttering, which will be followed by exterior brickwork. Interior work ongoing included walls, plumbing, IR heaters, and the heating and air conditioning. He said that everything was going well, weather permitting, and concrete work on the parking lot and driveway would begin soon. He expects the project to be completed by the end of this year. After his report, council members approved a pay request for the project.

Council members also voted to approve a municipal order to amend the city's guidelines for purchasing and contracting, to bring it in line with the state's new procurement rules, and they approved a resolution to approve a memorandum of agreement between the city and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to accept \$159,000 in funds to resurface American Legion Way and East Main Street.

Mayor Laura White-Brown noted that she will work with contractors with ongoing construction at Morehead State University at University Boulevard and will likely delay paving on East Main Street until heavy equipment use in that area in finished.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Rowan County Public Library, established under KRS 173.710, provides library services to citizens in Rowan County, Kentucky. In accordance with Chapters 65A and 424 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the financial records (adopted budget, financial statements, and most recent audit) of the Rowan County Public Library Special Purpose Governmental Entity may be inspected at the Rowan County Public Library, located at 175 Beacon Hill Rd, Morehead, Kentucky, during administrative office hours: Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm. Inquiries should be made to the Library Director.

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The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Friday.

Send letters to:

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However if email is used, the sender should call 606-674-9994 to confirm that the letter was received.

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