

Hopkinsville Seeks Community’s Help Following Theft of Veteran Grave Markers

The City of Hopkinsville is asking residents to help following the theft of veteran grave markers from Cave Springs Cemetery and Riverside Cemetery. According to city officials, 27 markers are currently known to have been stolen from the two cemeteries.

Officials said the markers represent far more than pieces of bronze. They serve as lasting memorials to veterans who served the country and represent the sacrifices made by those who served. Their theft has caused concern among families and throughout the community.

The city is working with the Hopkinsville Police Department, area salvage yards and other community partners in an effort to identify those responsible and recover the



stolen markers whenever possible.

Additional security measures are also being planned for city cemetery properties. Those measures will include the installation of cameras and increased surveillance to help deter future thefts and protect memorials.

City officials are encouraging families with loved ones buried at Cave Springs Cemetery, Riverside

Cemetery or other cemeteries throughout the county to visit gravesites and check for missing veteran markers or other memorial items.

Anyone who discovers a missing marker, has information about the thefts or witnesses suspicious activity around a cemetery is encouraged to contact the City of Hopkinsville Public Works Department at 270-890-0600.

Public Works is coordinating with the Hopkinsville Police Department to ensure information is properly documented and shared with investigators when appropriate.

Residents are also being asked to remain alert when visiting or traveling near local cemeteries. Unusual activity involving grave markers, memorial items or individuals around cemetery grounds should be reported.

City officials emphasized that community awareness can be an important tool in protecting cemeteries and preventing additional

thefts. Residents who notice suspicious behavior are encouraged to report it rather than attempting to intervene themselves.

Cemeteries serve as places of remembrance, reflection and respect, and officials said the veterans buried there deserve to have their service and sacrifice honored with dignity.

The city said it remains committed to maintaining its cemetery properties, supporting families who have loved ones buried there and taking reasonable steps to protect the memorials honoring those who served the nation.

Officials are asking the community to help watch over these sacred spaces and ensure they remain places of honor and remembrance for generations to come.

Beam Institute students gain global spirits experience in Scotland

By Grace Sowards
grace.sowards@uky.edu

Bourbon is one of the Commonwealth’s signature industries, but Kentuckians aren’t the only group to pride themselves on their whisky. Students from the University of Kentucky James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits (JBBI) and the Lewis Honors College traveled to Scotland this summer to learn more about how spirits are made and marketed around the world.

Sixteen students from several University of Kentucky colleges spent three weeks in Edinburgh. They experienced tours at distilleries, spent day trips discovering surrounding cities and worked together on their assignments. The Lewis Honors College split the students into groups according to their working and learning styles with the goal of increasing confidence by bringing together students who share communication styles and interests.

One of the student

projects was in partnership with Ballindalloch Distillery, a recent addition to the Estate Whiskey Alliance (EWA). This group’s assignment was to determine a plan for Ballindalloch to promote a new estate product to American consumers. In discussions with the EWA, a representative from Ballindalloch learned that students working on the project were planning to be in Scotland and wanted them to come see the distillery.

“It was a real pleasure to welcome the students to Ballindalloch,” said Aidan Dunn, international sales representative for the distillery. “Their enthusiasm, curiosity and willingness to get involved made them a pleasure to work with, and it was refreshing to see them applying their academic knowledge in a real distillery environment. Partnerships like these strengthen the future of the whisky industry and create lasting connections between education



and the people working within it.”

One student on the Ballindalloch project, Jacob Keaton, is studying landscape architecture at the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and working toward his Distillation, Wine and Brewing Sciences (DWB) Certificate. In addition to the trip aligning with his interests, he also was hungry for adventure.

“The program was wonderful in exploring the industry as a whole and understanding the different pieces that make up Scottish whisky,” Keaton said. “Travel provided a great chance for me to see a different perspective on things, like how I can interact with unfamiliar places, things and people. I was trying to plan and prioritize my experience, but once we arrived I learned to simply enjoy the ride.”

Ilka Balk, associate director at JBBI, traveled to Scotland with the students. While there, she supervised the project work and curated experiences to appeal to the multidisciplinary student group. Balk is no stranger to Scotland, having traveled there in both personal and professional capacities.

“Everywhere you go in Scotland, Kentucky comes up,” Balk said. “Distilleries over there use our casks for aging and are always friendly and warm to our students. Feels like a little piece of home for us while we’re visiting.”

EWA offers membership and product certification, which is what Ballindalloch

Distillery is currently working toward. This classification on a bottle ensures that all production processes occur on the estate distillery and at least two-thirds of all mash bill grains are grown on estate-owned or estate-controlled land.

“Opportunities like this are exactly why the Estate Whiskey Alliance was founded: to foster connections that advance the estate whiskey community,” said Alexa Narel, associate director of the EWA. “Ballindalloch has gone above and beyond as our first EWA member in Scotland, opening its doors to JBBI students for an estate tour and a research collaboration exploring how regions define estate whiskey. We’re excited to build on this momentum, pairing more members with UK students for experiential learning and welcoming new distilleries along the way.”

The DWB certificate is available to all UK students, graduate and undergraduate. View more information about the program here. Visit this site to learn more about the EWA.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2026 PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Livingston County Conservation District will have a public hearing during the Special Session of Livingston County Conservation District held at **Deer Lakes Golf Course in Salem, KY** on **September 4, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.** for the purpose of obtaining comments from the public regarding proposed tax rate.

The tax rate levied last year was 0.164 and produced revenues in the amount of \$106,622. This year’s compensating rate is 0.160 and will produce revenues in the amount of \$142,312 of .0163, which will produce a total of \$144,980.

Revenue expected from new property is \$371.74
Revenue received in excess of last year’s revenue will be used for general local government Expenditures.

The Kentucky General Assembly requires that the Livingston County Conservation District to publish this notice with the above information contained herein.

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