October is National
Breast Cancer Awareness Month

1965 Woodford County Courthouse fire film premiers at library – page 3
WCHS football clinches third straight district title – page 12
Woodford County Woman's Club celebrates 100 years – page 15

Celebrating 157 years 1869-2026

The Woodford Sun

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Councilmembers spar over alleged conflict of interest involving Siegelman

By Scott White
Woodford Sun Staff
Report for America corps member

The Versailles City Council, after the prayer and pledge, quickly took a turn when what should have been a routine piece of business led to a claim by Councilmember Ann Miller that Councilmember Fred Siegelman was in a conflict of interest and should not be allowed to vote on a zoning map amendment requested by SUS #1, Inc. and MMR Investments, Inc., involving the buildings at 200, 214, 216 and 218 Lexington Street and120 and 130 Locust Avenue, which was seeking a zone change from B-2 (central business district) to B-4 (highway business district).

As reported by the *Sun* last week, Goldie Singh, the owner of J&B Food Mart which is a well-known, popular, and respected business which includes a gas station and food mart, wants to build a new convenience store/gas station on the property. The Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Planning Commission approved the request following a public hearing on Oct. 8.

The re-zoning (or zoning map amendment) process then moves to Versailles City Council, which, as explained by City Attorney Bill Moore, means the council has three choices: vote to approve or deny the request based on the record of the Planning Commission, which means no new evidence or testimony can be put forward; choose to hold its own public hearing and then decide the request, which then would not use the Planning Commission's record; or take no action at all for a period of time and the request goes into effect.

He explained that after the council receives the record and the Commission's decision, the places it put it on the next council meeting agenda, takes no action at that meeting, which allows councilmembers to review the record in the city clerk's office before the following council meeting held two weeks later – and, at that second council meeting, decide how to proceed.

However, until the council makes the decision to accept or not accept the Commission's record, there can be no discussion of the proposed zone change or public comment on it.

As soon as Moore finished explaining this process to a member of the public who had begun speaking in favor of Singh's request during the public comment portion of the meeting and had sat down, Siegelman attempted to short-circuit the process, made a motion to approve the re-zoning request, and began speaking in favor of the request, saying he had attended the Oct. 8 Commission meeting and had already reviewed the complete record.

Once he finished, the motion died for lack of a second.

At that point, Councilmember Ann Miller moved to disqualify Siegelman from any participation or voting on Singh's request. She said, "An elected official can be disqualified on a re-zoning matter when there has been a violation of procedural due process or bias or prejudgment. Re-zoning requires a fair (review) of all evidence. . . . I believe Mr. Siegelman not only did not fairly judge the evidence, but he prejudged (the case)."

She went on to point out that Siegelman had already spoken in favor of the Singh request before it was even filed, when he voted against a proposed ordinance, which also contained the ban on data centers.

Siegelman responded by arguing he had not pre-judged the case.

He pointed out that though he voted against the proposed ordinance containing the data center ban, he did so because he felt "something got slipped in that could probably affect a downtown business . . . and, we all know it's Goldie (Singh)'s business and it is grandfathered in, that's why I voted against it." Siegelman also pointed out that he clarified the reason for his vote at two

See COUNCIL p. 7



THE PINK SISTERS held its second annual downtown "Light Up Woodford County," a march down Main Street that ends on the courthouse steps where a group photo is taken. This year's honored guests who shared their stories were Chrissy Brooks and her daughter, Chloe Brooks. The purpose of the nonprofit's event is to raise awareness of and provide education on breast cancer. The Pink Sisters was founded by sisters Catherine Anderson, a breast cancer survivor, and Amy Thomas Iwahara. This year, they added an event at The District with live music by the Barrel Brothers, food and drink trucks and several provider booths that shared health and cancer information. Attendance was estimated at nearly 300 despite an ongoing threat of rain. Pink Sisters also announced that it was partnering to offer free mammograms on Dec. 7 in Woodford County. As they said, early detection saves lives. Use this link to register for your free mammogram: https://forms.gle/5MxdZU2Q4FzzCXkN9. (Photo by Scott White)

Students in WCPS perform at high levels on assessment

WCHS ranks 22nd in state

By Bob Vlach
Woodford Sun Staff

Woodford County High School received the highest overall performance rating (Blue), according to state assessment results released by the Kentucky Department of Education on Oct. 15.

Being ranked 22nd in the state was described by Director of Student Achievement Susan Tracy as "significantly great." Only one high school in Central Kentucky (Lafayette High School in Lexington) ranked higher than WCHS, Superintendent Lori Jones pointed out.

Continuous improvement across the district is evidence that students in Woodford County Public Schools (WCPS) can have "a world-class education," Jones said, thanks to

See STUDENTS p. 5

Woodford County's NAACP Annual Gala celebrates unity, justice, and work 'for such a time as this'

By Scott White
Woodford Sun Staff
Report for America corps member

The Woodford County Chapter of the NAACP held its Annual Gala on Saturday night, celebrating a consequential year with continued growth and impact, while challenging the community with this year's theme: "United by strength, inspired by service 'for such a time as this.'"

The event, held at KCTCS in Versailles, continued its string of sell-outs, with just over 150 in attendance.

The NAACP is the country's oldest and largest civil rights advocacy group with a long history of success in fighting for a just and equal society. But, as chapter president, Rev. Larry Blackford pointed out in his welcoming remarks, "There is an incorrect perception that the NAACP is only a black organization focused on black issues. We are a diverse group of Woodford Countians working to educate and unify our community to be a just and fair community for all of us."

Larry Smith, award-winning broadcast journalist and news anchor at WLEX-TV in Lexington since 2020, emceed the evening with a mixture of light-hearted banter and deep understanding of the mission of the NAACP and how it is not just a national organization, with much of its work taking place via local chapters. (Smith won an Emmy Award for his reporting on the opening of the Smithsonian's Museum of African American History and Culture, and a Peabody Award for his reporting on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.)

Unlike many catered banquets, the dinner elicited more than a few smiles, with folks enjoying ribs or turkey with a range of sides. One attendee said the food was like a wonderful Sunday dinner, and it would be a challenge not to doze off during the keynote address.

He had nothing to worry about.

Before the keynote speaker, there was a big surprise for



WOODFORD COUNTY NAACP CHAPTER President Larry Blackford presented the organization's Community Service Award to Sioux Finney at the group's Annual Gala last Saturday. (Photo by Scott White)

a very special Woodford Countian.

Blackford presented Sioux Finney with the chapter's Community Service Award. Finney is a retired, longtime social studies and history teacher at Woodford County High School, who was recently inducted into the Woodford County Public Schools Hall of Fame.

However, this award was in recognition of her leadership and work in the establishment and growth of Huntertown Community Interpretive Park (HCIP). HCIP is located on the site of one of Woodford County's historic and significant African-American "free communities" that was established soon after the Civil War by emancipated slaves and veterans of the U.S. Colored Troops who fought for their freedom in that war. Huntertown remained a vibrant community well into the 1970s.

Finney, remarking on how the idea of the park was planted by Woodford County Magistrate Mary Ann Gill several years ago, began the work of creating the park by organizing and bringing together former residents, lobbying local government, securing grants, fundraising and creating a supporting board, to where now HCIP is one of the premier jewels of the county's park system.

"I am humbled and honored, and this means so much," Finney said, who had no clue she was receiving the recognition. "Our community, in building this park, recognized that this is our story; we are all connected. This cannot be erased; (HCIP) represents the American story."

Finney's remarks, unknowingly, presaged the keynote speech of Dr. Kilen Gray, DMin. Gray, soon after starting his speech, noted that Finney's work at HCIP was a perfect illustration of the kind of work he would exhort folks to engage in.

Gray is a pastor at Bates Memorial Baptist Church in

See NAACP p. 7



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GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Tuesday, Oct. 13, Fiscal Court at 5:30 p.m.

Teacher of the Year

Helping students figure out the puzzle of doing math

By Bob Vlach
Woodford Sun Staff

Being able to teach her students how to figure out the puzzle of doing math was God's gift to Jill Hall.

Finishing her career in education as Southside Elementary School's math coach was a chance for Hall to help students who struggled in the subject she has loved since childhood.

"… I just light up when I can sit down and help somebody," says Hall, who still gets phone calls from former students asking, "Hey, how do I do this?" So even in retirement, she loves helping when they're stuck – telling them, "We'll figure it out together."

Growing up, Hall remembers not wanting to sit down to read, but she always enjoyed solving math problems.

Hall, who began her career at Mortonsville Elementary School in 1989, says she did not want to retire or leave her Southside family because she loved what she was doing.

In addition to having grandchildren, Hall didn't want to do a second year of a new training program for math teachers, so younger teachers would have that opportunity. "So for me," she says, "it was time … to walk away only because somebody new needed to take on all that leadership."

Because in addition to helping struggling students in small groups and individually, a math coach trains other teachers on strategies for teaching math.

Hall, who left Woodford County for a few years after getting married, returned to teach in the GATE (gifted and talented) program at Simmons Elementary School before teaching math at Woodford County Middle School. At Southside, she was a fifth and second grade teacher before finishing her career as a math coach/specialist, "which I absolutely loved," she says.

While reflecting on more than three decades of teaching, Hall takes pride in having four daughters who chose career paths helping young people. Like her mom, Allie Clements teaches. Oldest daughter Sarah Learning is a physician in pediatrics, Bekah Jones is doing her residency in pediatric dentistry at the University of Kentucky, and Kamryn Hall works at a daycare and is a substitute teacher in Woodford County schools.

"It's kind of ironic that we all are kid-friendly (in what we do)," says Jill Hall, whose husband Kevin is a special education teacher.

Growing up in Woodford County, Allie, Sarah, Bekah and Kamryn were "lifeguards … and babysitters … so I guess that is just part of who we are." It was a part of who she was too.

So, when Hall was deciding what to study in college, she chose teaching because "I love kids." For her, teaching took root at Jane's School of Dance and in Bible School – and her passion for teaching math has never waned.

"I feel like math is one big puzzle. You give me a problem, and I've got to figure it out," says Hall, who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education at Transylvania University and the University of Kentucky.

Hall has never stopped learning or learning how to solve a math problem differently. So, she says, "It's just fun to be able to help kids understand things (when solving math problems), and understand why they are what they are."

This is the final story in a series of stories profiling the 2025-26 Teachers of the Year in Woodford County Public Schools.



JILL HALL spent more than 30 years in the classroom. She finished her teaching career as the math coach at Southside Elementary School. Now (mostly) retired, Hall still helps out former students when they're stuck on a math problem. She also does some tutoring. (File photo by Bob Vlach)



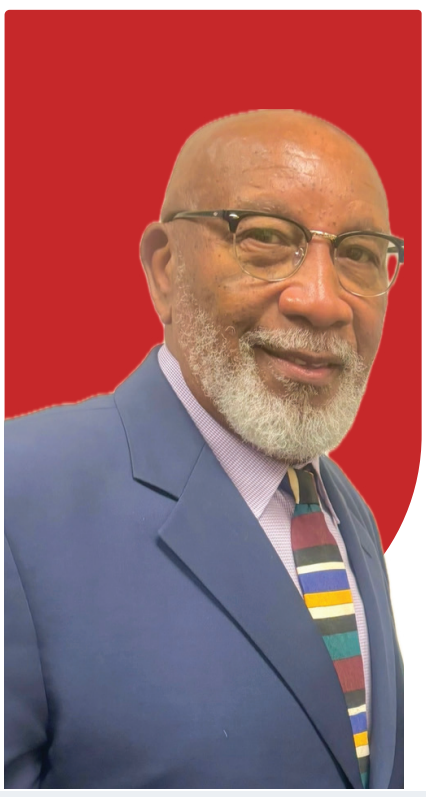
THE ENTIRE WOODFORD COUNTY MIDDLE School sixth grade class spent half of Thursday, Oct. 1, on an immersive community tour. In small groups, they visited Mayor Laura Dake and City Hall, Judge-Executive James Kay and the County Courthouse, the health, fire, and police departments, the Agriculture Extension Office, the Water Treatment Plant, the Emergency Management Agency, and finished at The District for lunch. According to Woodford County Public School Communications Director Elaine Bailey, the tour is "a core part of our Portrait of a Learner (program) by developing our students into responsible contributors who actively seek to make positive contributions to their community. We believe that true civic responsibility is best learned by seeing it in action. This experiential field trip is designed to do exactly that by connecting our students directly with the local leaders, first responders and organizations that keep our city running safely and effectively." The tour was funded by a city grant from the Opioid Settlement Funds, which was approved by the Versailles City Council. Pictured is Mayor Dake with the sixth grade class and teachers, Kevin Hook, far right top, and Lucas Schaub, far left top. (Photo by Scott White)



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Midway Mayor Vandegrift presents options for E. Stephens Street sidewalk

By Scott White
Woodford Sun Staff
Report for America corps member

A recurring issue the Midway city government has been dealing with for a long time is a sidewalk on E. Stephens Street. The city has been working to resolve this with a sidewalk from Gratz Street to The Homeplace at Midway entrance by seeking grants, having discussions from time to time at City Council meetings and by informally polling city residents.

At Monday night's City Council meeting, Mayor Grayson Vandegrift posed two options the city could explore, the most recent one a result of discussions with the city engineer.

So far, the primary option has been constructing a new sidewalk along the south side of Stephens Street, which Vandegrift said would be costly, require the construction of three pedestrian bridges, likely take time, and comes with an estimated general cost of around $300,000. He added that given the current environment, there were not many grant opportunities to offset the cost.

The other option is to widen Stephens Street by 3-4 feet to allow for a walking/biking space that is protected by orange, standing, flexible plastic stakes. Vandegrift said this is an approach that could be done earlier with significantly less money. It would go on the side of the road, and would not be affected by the runoff problem that plagues it.

Vandegrift said a decision did not need to be taken at that meeting, but he wanted to pose the options and see how the council and the community felt before any further steps were taken.

"This may not be everyone's favorite solution, but it's better than nothing," said Vandegrift. Noting that it has been an issue for several prior councils, he added, "This is a hard problem to solve with the retention (issues)."

Councilmember Logan Nance said that though he is open-minded, after just hearing the new idea, he said, "(This) isn't my favorite option . . . it doesn't solve the problem that there is no crossing. I much prefer a sidewalk; I don't think many folks will use (the street widening option) as a sidewalk. I'm kind of on the fence."

Vandegrift said if it is pursued, a painted crosswalk would be put in place.

Vandegrift said he will request the city engineer to prepare two sets of plans, one for each option. He said he would bring the issue back to the City Council for further discussion, and in the meantime, he and the council can see how residents feel about the two options.

Halloween

The City Council set trick or treat for Oct. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m.

1965 Woodford County Courthouse fire film premiers at library

By Scott White
Woodford Sun Staff
Report for America corps member

On Oct. 11, 1965 – a beautiful, clear fall day – Rosemary Johnson, then 20 years old, was working, as usual, as a deputy clerk in the Woodford County Clerk's Office on the first floor of the county courthouse when she heard a commotion outside her door.

Peering out, she saw a group of firefighters with the Versailles Volunteer Fire Department (VVFD) running up the steps. She and her boss, County Clerk Albert Rose, went outside and saw smoke coming from the clock tower. They ran back in and began putting valuable records into the vault in the event the fire grew – which was critical, as the records were saved.

Luckily, Rosemary first made a quick call to her then-husband, Tommy McClain, who was home after working the third shift, telling him to grab their handheld Brownie movie camera, get downtown and start filming. By 1965, owning a personal 8 mm movie camera was not unusual.

Decades later, Rosemary brought the old film to Cheri Daniels, the Woodford County Library's history room librarian. Thanks to a $25,000 grant from Woodford Reserve two years ago, the library now has a Digital Legacy Lab, which has a Kodak RELS film digitizer, and Daniels was able to digitize the original film into a six-minute "home movie" of the footage taken by McClain. Daniels said the film was in such good shape that it did not need to be enhanced.

The result is not just a record of the fire, which went on to destroy the Woodford County Courthouse, built in 1813 with a cupola built in 1846, but also downtown buildings and residents who had come to either watch or help. Estimates at the time put the crowd of bystanders at 100.

The film had its public "premiere" at a special event held at the library on Oct. 11, where folks were able to watch the restored film and hear reminiscences from not just Rosemary, but firefighters (and college students at the time) Winfrey Adkins and Dr. Bill Foley, who fought the fire. Glenda Creech, whose family-owned Creech's Department Store, which was located on the first floor and basement of the Odd Fellows Building next to the courthouse, shared her memories and fear that the fire would jump to their building – which did not happen thanks to the heroic efforts of the VVFD and Woodford County Volunteer Fire Department (WCFD).

According to a story in *The Woodford Sun*'s Oct. 14, 1965 edition, the fire started when workers were repairing the roof. It spread quickly into the attic and rafters, eventually engulfing the entire building, bringing an end to its 150 years as *the* iconic image of downtown Versailles.

Here is what the *Sun*'s front-page, three-photo-wide story said, "The first hint of the impending disaster was a commotion overheard by Police Chief Robert Brown who was in the police station . . . . (when) one of the repairmen burst into the station shouting, 'the roof is on fire.' . . . at 12:45 p.m."

The paper reported, "In a matter of seconds, smoke began billowing from the clock tower and a wisp or two escaped from the eaves on the south-side gable near Main Street and next to the Odd Fellows Building . . . Just after the first flames licked out, fire hoses were being manned on Main Street, and the valiant but losing battle was under way."

Most compelling, the report related a heroic effort by the firefighters: ". . . a daring group of firemen went into the attic near the center where the fire had burned the longest and was at its fiercest . . . the smoke and flame made their experience a nightmare, (where) the firemen faced, with great courage and stamina, a fantastic measure of danger." The report marveled that after fighting the fire all day, "if in defiance of all that could be thrown at it, the tower stood . . . and stayed, and within it the bell hung, just as defiantly."

Though the building was lost, the fire was confined and did not spread to the adjoining or nearby buildings.

This, now 61-year-old unsigned story (*The Woodford Sun* did not start using bylines until the 1970s), literally came to life at the library event.

At that time, there were 20 volunteer firefighters and about 16 county firefighters, according to Winfrey. They were paid a fixed amount for each run and were paid in cash once a month. "We'd go down to the city clerk and get our envelope," Winfrey recalled.

On Oct. 11, Winfrey was driving home from class at Transylvania around 1:30 p.m., when he crested the hill on Lexington Street near Bowmar Street and saw the clock tower was "half gone. We didn't have turnout gear then (fire fighting gear such as heavy, fire-proof clothing and boots), so I drove to the Odd Fellows building, got out and started working." He was sent to the top of the United Bank building, corner of N. Main and Court streets, where he manned a fire hose "putting water down on the courthouse." The county fire department took the north side of the building, near United Bank, and the VVFD fought on the other sides. Winfrey had been a member of the VVFD since turning 18 two years before, and is still an active member of the department as a safety officer, still fighting fires.

Foley was working part-time as a bookkeeper at United Bank while a student at the UK Medical School when he heard the air-siren and his boss came to his basement office and said, "They are gonna need you on this one." He went straight to the fire, taking off only his coat and tie, and joined a crew that worked its way up to the attic.

This is the "heroic" event the *Sun* described in its coverage of the event.

"We hauled up two fire hoses to the third floor, and nearly 30 percent of it was on fire, and we started putting water on it," Foley said. "We weren't making any headway; some rafters started falling in, and so Tom Taylor and Willard Conway said, 'We need to get out here.' Since Tom was the senior firefighter, then he was in charge, and he was the last man out of the fire escape, so he was the last person to ever be in the courthouse before it burned down." He then went to the top of the Odd Fellows building and directed water cannons at the fire, and said, "We couldn't really do anything but contain it until the roof fell in." The archival photo accompanying this story shows the VVFD firefighters using hoses and canons atop the Odd Fellows building (which was eventually demolished to make room for the new courthouse which stands today).

Glenda Creech, whose family owned the adjacent department store, had a very different experience. She was a nurse at the Woodford Hospital on Amsden Avenue and was on shift at the time of the fire. "I remember a Versailles fireman coming in and warning the attending to be ready for injuries because there was a big fire at the courthouse," she recalled. "I immediately became worried because not only was our store next door in the Odd Fellows building, but my mom, Maura, and brother Donnie were there working, and Donnie would have been in the basement. I watched the whole thing from the hospital's roof, because none of us were allowed to leave the hospital in case we had large numbers of injuries coming in."

As it turned out, according to the *Sun*'s story, remarkably there were no fatalities, and there were only two injuries, both to firefighters – one a mild case of smoke inhalation and the other received a gash in his leg from a falling piece of wood which required five stitches.

"Even though the building didn't catch on fire, almost everything was ruined from the smoke and water that had gotten in," Creech said. "Mother ended up closing the store, and we relocated it."

There can be no doubt that the skill and commitment of the VVFD, with help from the WCFD (and later a truck from the Lexington Fire Department arrived) and others just showing up to "do the right thing," prevented a far greater disaster by containing it to the courthouse and fighting it professionally, while preventing any serious injuries or deaths.

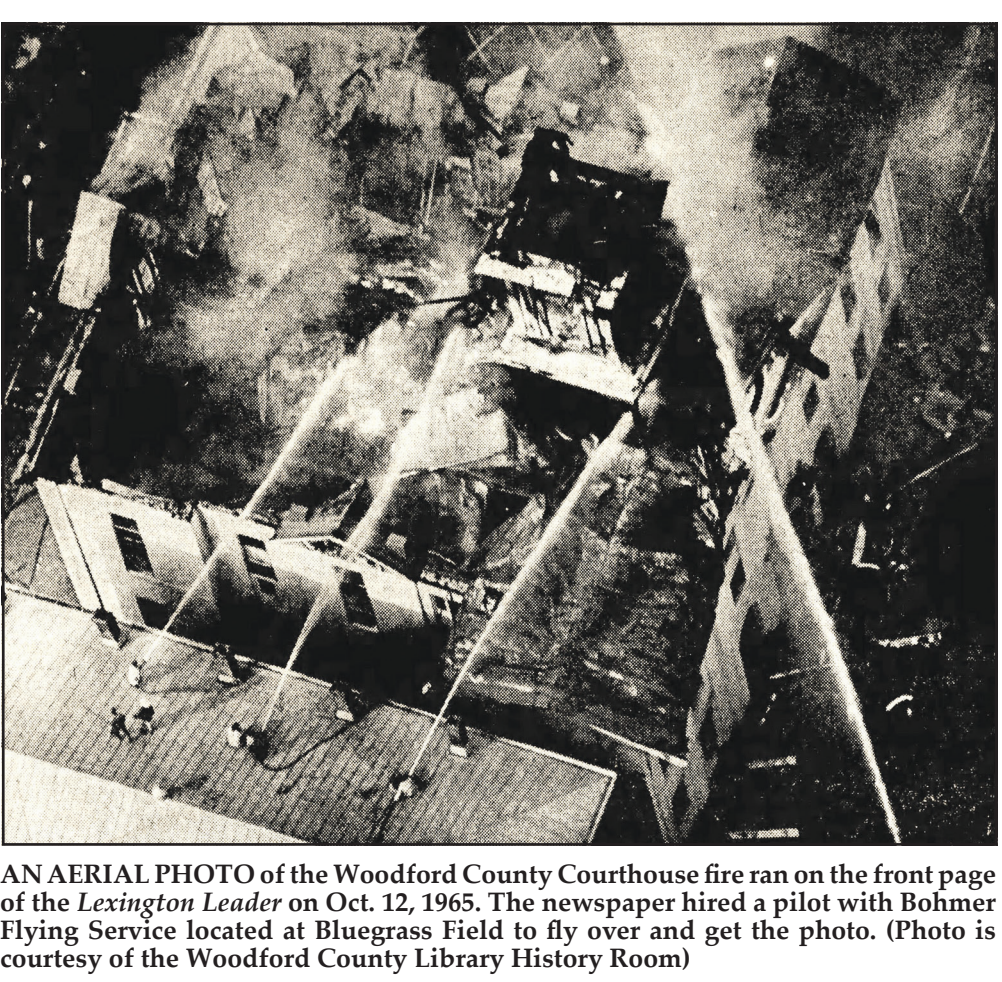
The *Sun*'s then publisher, Ben Chandler Jr., said it well in an editorial printed in the Oct. 14, 1965, paper, "That Monday's disastrous fire was confined to the four walls of the courthouse was remarkable. It was indicative of the highest skill, dedication and courage on the part of our Versailles and Woodford County volunteer firemen . . . . The bulk of the effort . . . was carried on by volunteers who, ignoring great personal danger, did what they had been trained to do in containing the conflagration . . . even climbing into the attic, which was fully ablaze, facing what could at any moment have been death . . . . When (the volunteer firemen) are our own family, friends, co-workers and neighbors, the realization of what could befall them at any moment makes a big difference. No one who watched their valiant efforts Monday could help but feel the greatest gratitude and admiration for the determination and bravery shown by every man."

The example set by our two fire departments in the home movie shown at the library event set a high standard, which still is paying off today – think of the Wilson Pool Hall and Glenns Creek Distillery fires just this past year.

And thank you, Rosemary, for sharing this treasure with the entire county and ensuring the story of the 1965 Courthouse Fire will not be forgotten.



"THEY WERE THERE" Dr. Bill Foley, Glenda Creech, Rosemary Johnson and Winfrey Adkins spoke at the premiere of a home movie taken by Tommy McNeil of the 1965 Woodford County Courthouse fire, which took place at the Woodford County Library on Oct. 11. Foley and Adkins were college students and members of the Versailles Volunteer Fire Department who helped fight the fire, Creech's family owned a business next door to the courthouse and witnessed the fire from the roof of the Woodford Hospital, and Johnson was a 20-year-old deputy clerk in the County Clerk's office whose then-husband Tommy McNeil took the footage of the fire with their personal hand-held movie camera. An image from the film is paused on the screen behind them. (Photo by Scott White)



AN AERIAL PHOTO of the Woodford County Courthouse fire ran on the front page of the *Lexington Leader* on Oct. 12, 1965. The newspaper hired a pilot with Bohmer Flying Service located at Bluegrass Field to fly over and get the photo. (Photo is courtesy of the Woodford County Library History Room)





From Our Files

10 Years Ago
October 20, 2016

The Woodford County Woman's Club is trying something different for its annual holiday fundraiser – selling a cookbook created by them titled "Our Turn in the Kitchen: What Woodford Men Cook" – a collection of 350 recipes from men living in the county. "The response of men who want to be included has been overwhelming," said Club President Delia Spurgeon.

Candidates for Midway City Council attended a forum at Midway University, with only one incumbent choosing not to participate. Though only about 30 people attended, the candidates were able to engage in what turned into a friendly, informative discussion of the issues facing the town.

Midway agreed at its last council meeting to add an additional $450,000 to the current $2.8 million dollar incentive package for Lakeshore Learning to open its new facility at Midway Station. The funds will be used to provide natural gas to the site. The city will have five years to pay this off.

Both the WCHS girls and boys soccer teams captured District titles, with both teams earning clean sheets with the girls winning 4-0 and the boys 2-0 over Franklin County. The Lady Jackets volleyball team continued their strong play, advancing to the District Final with a dominant win over Franklin County, 3-1. The football team was soundly beaten 49-7 by Madison Southern, dropping their record to 3-4.

25 Years Ago
October 25, 2001

The history of the Offutt-Cole Tavern on Midway Road was commemorated on Oct. 18 by the Sarah Morgan Boone Chapter of the Kentucky Society Colonial Dames of America at the site. Featuring a log section dated to the 1780s-1790s, the tavern has long been a part of Woodford County's history.

A double-fine law for speeding in the Huntertown Elementary School zone has been approved by Woodford Fiscal Court.

Two Washington, D.C., postal workers died of anthrax poisoning, tests have revealed. Police, firefighters and pubic health officials are dealing with a rash of anthrax scares across the country.

Coats and Shoes for Kids received a $5,100 grant from the United Way of Woodford County.

The Woodford County Police Department has received a state grant of $24,900 supporting traffic enforcement laws.

Receiving awards at the Oct. 20 Farm Bureau annual meeting were Lynn Martin, Pioneer Farmer; Atta Tom Payton, Distinguished Service to Agriculture; Lois Hamm, Distinguished Service to Education; Joe Greathouse, Young Farmer; and Bob Huffman, Director Emeritus.

40 Years Ago
October 23, 1986

Simmons Elementary students were visited by NASA aerospace education specialist Patterson Biggs on Oct. 15.

Julie Burau, a Woodford County High School senior, spent eight weeks recently as an exchange student in Frei, Norway.

Retired Major General Arthur Y. Lloyd, prominent educator, veteran state official and farmer, died Friday at the age of 78.

Paul Green, who graduated in June from Harvard University and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, has been assigned to a Florida base to begin nuclear power school.

Joyce Threlkeld of Versailles was presented the Outstanding Alumnus Award for 1986 in the University of Kentucky College of Home Economics.

Earning all A's at Midway Elementary for the first six weeks were Elizabeth Greathouse, Brian Larson and Joni Schenck, fourth grade; Hilarye Dailey, fifth grade, and Adrienne Campbell, Sean Endicott and Linda Mitchell, sixth grade.

Completing basic training recently were Army National Guard Private Evelyn Borders and Army Reserve Private Gloria Merriman, at Fort Dix, N. J., and Army Reserve Private Robert B. Mook, at Fort Knox, Ky.

Clippings from our past...

Editor's Note: Having completed the adoption of the current Kentucky Constitution in August 1891 and the start of America's involvement in World War I in winter-spring 1917, the Sun now moves to the last months of WW I, the period of the United States major involvement. This period also saw the impact of the deadly Spanish Flu epidemic in the U.S., including Central Kentucky. For historical purposes, the Sun reprints the Clippings "warts and all," and so derogatory and racist stereotypical words are reprinted in an effort to combat any attempts to "clean up" history for modern eyes or assuage modern consciences.

The Woodford Sun
October 17, 1918

[WAR NEWS] According to a wire report from the New York Times, its military expert says the German's position is desperate. During fifteen successive days just passed, the British army hurled more than 10,000 tons of shells a day at the enemy. The capture of the Argonne forest by American troops is the greatest victory yet achieved by Gen. Pershing. Gen. March, chief of staff, announced that there are now 1,900,000 American soldiers in cams in the U.S., and that 2,000,000 more will be called into service by the draft. He said this is no time to slacken the effort against Germany,

[SPLENDID YOUNG MEN] John Raymond Mahia, of Troy, aged 24, died at Sidney, Nova Scotia, last Thursday of Spanish Influenza. He had been in the infantry. The service will be held at Troy Presbyterian. William Howard, 30, a native and farmer of this county and a member of the Army, died of the Spanish Influenza at Camp Meade in Maryland. The pouring out of blood of such young men as these is the most priceless libation which it is in human power to offer upon liberty's altar, and that blood eloquently pleads with us to do our part in this War, as they have done theirs.

[INFLUENZA UNABATED] To combat the spread of the deadly Spanish Influenza, many Kentucky towns, including Versailles, are rigorously enforcing the no-spitting on sidewalks ordinance. On account of the epidemic, the arrangements for the church wedding of Miss Florence Edwards and Mr. Frank Bohannon, Jr., was held at the beautiful country estate of the bride's parents, "Airy Mount", instead of Versailles Presbyterian in town. The happy couple left for a bridal trip, the destination being a secret. The bride is one of the most loveliest members of a most attractive and popular family. Her very great attractiveness, sweetness, and charm, have made her a universal social favorite in Woodford. The [COUGHS AND SNEEZES SPREAD DISEASES] Subtitled, "As Dangerous as Poison Gas Shells," the *Sun* published a lengthy article on the source of the Spanish Influenza epidemic, how it is recognized, treated, its course, the significant risk of death, its treatment, and how best to avoid it – via a healthy diet and avoiding persons who cough and sneeze.

[FIRE OUTBREAK CONTINUES] The two-story frame home of T.E. Carter, on the McCowan's Ferry pike, was respectfully destroyed by fire on Thursday night. Very few household affects were satisfied. The loss amounts to several thousands of dollars, with no insurance.

The Woodford Sun
October 24, 1918

[WAR NEWS] More than three billion bullet cartridges have been manufactured in this country for the U.S. Army since war was declared by President Wilson. The American steamer Lucia, equipped with buoyancy boxes and supposedly unsinkable, was sunk by a German submarine last week. Maj. General Frederick Maurice, the British military's expert, says Germany is still some way from complete military defeat and warns against any relaxation of effort. Gen. Pershing has cabled an earnest need for more coal, and the lack of it means slowing down the Army's advance. He says American soldiers are counting on our miners, including those in Kentucky. Horribly, when German's abandoned Cambrai they left behind devices to mutilate and kill returning refugees. An officer seeing a piano in the street, struck a key igniting a bomb which tore off his hand.

[SPANISH INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC SPREADING] The influenza epidemic is spreading rapidly in 35 States, an increase in new cases and deaths being reported in army camps throughout the U.S. and among the civilian population, and taking a terrible toll here in the Kentucky camps and nearby towns and cities. The epidemic is prevalent in Versailles and the county. There are now 150 cases reported here, and many house have been quarantined. No precautions can be at all effectual here without the cooperation of all the people! This is no occasion to be panicky or frightened, but no one can tell how far this thing will go, and PREPAREDNESS is the best weapon with which to fight it. It is the duty of every citizen to take precautions for himself, for his own family and as far as possible for the public welfare. ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL is the motto which will stamp out the "flu" - this is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

The seriousness of the situation as evidenced elsewhere demands earnest, active effort both to prevent the spread and to care for those already affected. It is a highly contagious and deadly disease, and is transmitted by air-borne discharge from the nose and throat of the sick. It is clear that the virulence of this disease is increased by close crowds in homes or business places. These situations should be avoided and free ventilation and an abundance of fresh air sought. Protect your nose and mouth with a mask or some other screening.

[DEMOCRATS AWAKE! (Editor Atchison Bowmar's weekly column] The Democratic wheel horses in this county have been "doing their darnedest." Dave Howard, chairman of the soldier's committee, although flat on his back in bed and suffering great pain most of the time for the past month, has been chasing Democrat soldier votes all over the world. Theodore Harris, the county chairman, has hovered over the campaign like hen with one chicken. But, the Democrats in general are "asleep at the switch" in Woodford, while the Republicans snoop around the county on their gum shoes, and get in some very effective licks. Our Democratic folks generally require noise and liveliness to get 'em interested. They don't know how to manipulate gum shoes, and with no public speakings, and with the Spanish influenza preventing public gatherings of any kind, the Democratic cause is languishing. I want to tell you Woodford Democrats in all seriousness that unless you rouse up, get busy and stay busy until election day, , Woodford County is liable to go Republican. This is a straight tip. NOTE – Bowmar devoted significant space to the upcoming election on the question of issuing bonds to "obtain pure water for Versailles." He supports the proposal.

Letters to the Editor

Allegations of corruption troubling

It troubles me that unsubstantiated reports of corruption in our local governments are running rampant. I don't understand this, and I would like to address this misinformation.

In my nine years as City Attorney for Midway and 26 years as City Attorney for Versailles, I have not seen any backyard deals, any money changing hands for political favors, or any other type of corruption. What I have seen time and time again are elected public officials, including those currently in office, working diligently and transparently to improve this community for the benefit of everyone.

The city councils of Versailles and Midway and the Woodford Fiscal Court have all adopted strict codes of ethics that are enforced by an independent Board of Ethics.

If anyone has reason to believe that any councilman, magistrate, mayor or county judge has acted inappropriately, I encourage the person to submit a complaint to the Board of Ethics for a proper investigation and appropriate action.

If we continue to slander the reputations of the good people in office with false accusations of impropriety, we'll have no one to run for those offices except the ones who make these unfounded claims about corruption.

William K. Moore
Versailles City Attorney

My vote is not for sale...is yours?

The Kentucky days of buying votes with "a half pint and a buck" are a legend, but today the preferred method to influence votes is the 30 second attack ad.

With just days until the election, most TV and Radio ads are political spots. Generally the ads say almost nothing about important policy positions. Most are just nasty attack ads grabbing a comment or photo, often "out of context", to kindle an outrage. Huge sums are being spent knowing that millions of people will vote solely on a nasty TV ad. It is sad that many voters don't make an effort to really understand the positions that candidates take on critical issues. So shame on us as voters if we are so easily manipulated, and don't make an effort to study the candidates.

This problem is compounded by the $Billions being funneled into these ads by national PACs and distant people who stand to gain when their preferred candidate is elected.

Example: Elon Musk, founder of Tesla and SpaceX has reportedly spent $276 million in campaign contributions, just this month, all across the nation, to support his preferred candidates. Obviously these PAC's and major donors believe they can sway our votes. Interestingly, Mr. Musk's major customer is our federal government. As has been widely reported, over the last two decades his companies have received an estimated $38 billion dollars in federal government direct payments or tax subsidies. So, it is not surprising that he wants to influence us as voters, to elect people that will continue these federal spending programs.

Our local, state or federal governments need great suppliers, to build high-quality schools, roads, and jet fighters. Every government supplier should be expected to compete via established fair and equal bidding processes. I search for representatives in Congress who will carefully control government spending, and get the most "Bang for our tax Buck", through honest and open budgeting and spending practices. We also need to be sure we are not buying things we don't really need.

For example; I hope congress will continue to debate the value of a manned moon station, at a time of exploding federal debt.

In my research for candidates that best match my own political views I will refuse to be influenced by 30 second attack ads. My vote is not for sale.

Edd Rogenkamp
Versailles

The Changing of the Year

The sky-bound ponies wildly race,
And kick up clouds across the blue;
They gallop at a breathless pace,
To usher in a season new.
A cool fall breeze begins to blow,
And strips the branches of their gold;
The leaves descend to earth below,
As autumn weather takes its hold.
The summer sun begins to fade,
We gather in the final yield;
The heavy harvest tasks are made,
Across the quiet, frosty field.

Rick Wade
Versailles

Guidelines for letters to the editor:

DEADLINE FOR OCT. 29 EDITION – Since this will be a countywide edition, we operate on an earlier deadline. If you wish to submit a letter to the editor to run that week, we must have it in the office no later than 4 p.m. on Oct. 22.

The Woodford Sun welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be original, on topics of public interest, and not addressed to a third party.

Letters must contain the name, address, and daytime telephone number of the writer for purposes of verification. The *Sun* does not publish unsigned or unverifiable letters. We reserve the right to reject or condense any letter and to limit frequent writers. Letters should be typed, not in all upper case, and be no longer than 400 words.

Thank-you letters and those containing personal messages are not accepted, nor are all letters concerning candidates for local offices.

The deadline for receipt of letters is noon Monday. Letters may be brought to our office at 184 South Main Street, mailed to us at P.O. Box 29, Versailles, KY 40383, or emailed to *news@woodfordsun.com.*

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YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES
$50, Woodford County residents; $38, Woodford County senior residents; $60, Kentucky residents; $65, out of state

Petition opposing recallable school tax surprises Jones

By Bob Vlach
Woodford Sun Staff

If a petition seeking to recall a property tax rate approved by the Woodford County Board of Education (BOE) last month gets enough signatures and the BOE reverts to a lower non-recallable tax rate, Woodford County Public Schools (WCPS) Superintendent Lori Jones said additional budget cuts will be necessary next school year.

To be successful, the recall petition will need to have 1,517 qualified signatures, which is 10 percent of the 15,173 votes in Woodford County in the last presidential election on Nov. 5, 2024, according to Woodford County Clerk Sandy Jones. The petition period of 45 days will end on Nov. 8, and Jones will have 30 days for signature verification (Dec. 8, 2026), according to a 2026 statutory timeline provided by Jones. The BOE will have 15 days after certification to rescind or reconsider its tax levy.

"The reason we started this is because we're taxed to death," said Petition Committee Chair Malcolm Collins. He told the *Sun* during a telephone interview on Wednesday morning, "I think we have a wonderful school system, but I don't think the taxpayer should pay for the mistakes of past board members." He estimated, "We're 30 percent successful of what we need" as far as signatures on the recall petition.

If the recall is successful, WCPS will face additional budget cuts totaling $1.3 million next school year, Jones told the *Sun*.

Following a tax hearing on Sept. 24, the BOE voted 4-1 to hold the property tax rate at 63.3 cents per $100 of assessed value, with board member Sherri Springate voting no. No one from the public spoke at the hearing.

It was the second BOE hearing and vote on the rate because WCPS was required to receive its certified tax base numbers from the Kentucky Department of Education – not the Kentucky Department of Revenue – even though the numbers were the same, according to district Finance Director Jason Gribbins.

Before both votes, BOE member Sarah McCoun lauded the efforts of Jones and employees across the district for coming together to eliminate unnecessary spending since Jones became superintendent in July 2025. "So I feel like under Dr. Jones's leadership, and with the support of the rest of the staff here," McCoun said, "we are in a much, much healthier, much more responsible trajectory" in terms of spending.

A non-recallable rate of 62.5 cents will only save taxpayers less than a penny per $100 of assessed value, BOE member KT Gould pointed out, but holding the rate at 63.3 cents will put WCPS in a better financial position to pay its operating expenses, including salaries for teachers and transportation for students.

Collins, whose wife Crystal is running for Adam Brickler's District 2 seat on the Woodford County Board of Education in the Nov. 3 General Election, said, "We're struggling more and more every day with the economy to pay just the basic necessities. And yes, eight-10ths of a cent doesn't sound like much, but in today's economy every penny counts."

In addition to rising operating costs, WCPS has facility needs and also has the lowest-paid staff – certified and classified – among schools in this area, Jones said. She said Anderson County Public Schools has now passed Woodford County. That's a concern, she said, because WCPS wants to continue giving students "high level of instruction."

"I was surprised by the recall because we felt so supported after we did our shows, our (budget) conversations in the community," Jones said. "We felt key citizens came out in support of us and saw the need for us to hold the rate, and really expressed that. So we were surprised (by the recall petition) because everyone who came to those sessions said, 'It is clear you need this money; the school system, our kids need this money.'"

While Collins said he understands the need for additional funding, "… I'm sure we can trim the fat a little more," arguing the additional money generated by the higher, recallable tax rate will not make much of a difference.

In addition to graduating from Woodford County High School himself, Collins said both of his daughters and two sisters are WCHS grads, "so I have strong ties to Woodford County High School."

"And I understand that the superintendent is under a lot of pressure and got handed a mess, and I get that," Crystal Collins told the *Sun* during a separate interview. "But this is still a right for taxpayers to push back … and (tell WCPS) be responsible with the money that you have."

In addition to rising operational expenses such as utilities, Jones said the deep cuts made at Central Office this year – over $1 million – can't happen again because WCPS needs "efficient operations here so that schools can do what they need to do." So staffing cuts next school year will get "closer and closer to impacting students," she added.

STUDENTS

Continued from p. 1

the hard work of teachers, support staff and school leaders.

Three Woodford County elementary schools and Woodford County Middle School all received overall ratings of Green, the second-highest performance rating.

Student proficiency in reading, mathematics, science and social studies at WCMS outpaced the state average, with sixth and seventh grade student proficiency in reading climbing above 60 percent.

The four elementary schools had a combined proficiency of 60 percent in reading, with the highest percentage being 65 percent at Southside Elementary.

Three elementary schools grew in math. Three elementary schools grew in social studies. Three elementary schools grew in science.

Northside was the only elementary school with an overall performance rating of Yellow (medium). However, Jones emphasized, "Northside made some *huge* growth. They're very close to Green." Northside third graders performed high in reading, with 72 percent deemed proficient/distinguished.

Jones said Southside, Simmons and Huntertown elementary schools were in the 73rd, 72nd and 68th percentile, respectively, in the state.

A variety of factors contributed to the high performance at WCHS, according to Tracy, including a large reduction in students scoring novice in tested areas. That reduction in novice scores included students with disabilities, she said.

Teachers and school administrators are building intentional relationships with students and their families so everyone has a seat at the table when decisions are being made about a student's individual education plans, Tracy said.

Consistency in leadership at WCHS has also played a role in the high school's success, Chief Academic Officer Ryan Asher said. "This is evidence of … consistent systems working," he added.

Reading proficiency at WCHS climbed 12 percentage points from a year ago to 69 percent, which is 20 percent higher than the state average. Math proficiency climbed to 56 percent, compared to 32 percent three years ago. Social studies (48 percent) and science (30 percent) proficiencies were lower, but higher than state averages (37 and 23 percent, respectively), according to Asher.

The graduation rate at WCHS was 99.7 percent, which Asher and Jones described as phenomenal. Post-secondary readiness – meeting academic and/or career benchmarks – climbed to 97.6 percent, which speaks to the district's focus on getting students ready for adult life after graduation, Asher said.

So if students don't hit academic benchmarks, he added, "we certainly can have them post-secondary ready" through our CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs.

Jones said the high percentage of reading proficiency at WCHS is also attributed to students in CTE classes where they read technical manuals for information. What's read in CTE classes is "really at the heart of a kid's interest," so that also encourages reading, Tracy added.

Project-based learning is another initiative undertaken by WCPS that prepares students to problem-solve in addition to being able to demonstrate academic proficiency on an assessment, Asher explained.

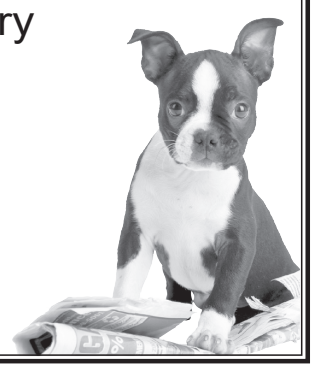
The focus, said Tracy, is doing memorable things that are embedded in the academic standards. "So the things that they remember are the standards that we're trying to teach them," through project-based learning experiences, she said.

In addition to students receiving high-quality instruction, Jones said it's important that teachers have high-quality instructional resources, which Tracy said is shown by the growth in reading at every elementary school.

A literacy grant provided funding for instructional resources for reading, but WCPS will need additional funding in order to purchase high-quality resources for other academic areas, including social studies and science, Jones and Tracy said.

Asher said that the results from the state accountability show "we can do a competency-based education that also produces high academic achievement."

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John Varner Statement

My name is John Varner. I've lived in Woodford County my whole life and have spent about 40 years with the Woodford Fire Protection District. Over those years I've served as a firefighter, training instructor, assistant chief, chief, board member, and chair.

I applied to serve another term on the board in May. Judge Kay did not recommend me. Lots of people have asked what happened before that decision was made, so I want to explain.

Judge Kay asked me to meet him at the courthouse on June 23 at 1400 to talk about my reappointment. When I arrived at his office, Squire Gentry was there too. I hadn't expected him and thought the meeting would be just between Judge Kay and me. There was some small talk about the history of the fire departments in Woodford County. Judge Kay then told me I was qualified to serve but said he would recommend reappointment only if the board lowered the tax rate from 7.3 cents to 7.0 cents per $100 of assessed value.

I told him I couldn't commit to that. That was a decision for the entire board and not mine alone. We hadn't received the estimated tax revenue information from the State, but I explained that I had concerns about lowering the rate due to the increase in costs and runs and the need for additional full-time staff in the coming years. I also raised concerns about property tax breaks for distilleries.

I asked Judge Kay and Squire Gentry to attend our upcoming meeting so they could participate in discussion with the full board about the tax rate. I gave them the date but neither came. That June 23 conversation was the only time I discussed my reappointment with them before the appointment decision was made.

I disagree with Squire Gentry, Downey, Taylor, Blackford, and Carl's decision to go along with Judge Kay. I've given most of my life to the fire department and this community. I think I've served longer than Judge Kay and many of the magistrates have been alive. I honestly don't know why I wasn't reappointed but I do know it wasn't because I couldn't do the job or hadn't done it well. This in my opinion is no way to thank a public servant for this commitment to the community.

John Varner

Paid for by John Varner.

Historic New Union Christian Church celebrates 192 years of discipleship on Old Frankfort Pike

By Rev. Dr. Deb Phelps, Pastor
Special to the *Sun*

A full house gathered last Sunday to worship and celebrate New Union Christian Church's 192nd Anniversary Worship and Homecoming.

The church was founded in 1834 in the South Elkhorn Creek area east of Pisgah Pike and Mt Vernon Baptist Church, along Old Frankfort Pike at Browns Mill Road. The first church building was built on its current site of Old Frankfort Road and Browns Mill Road in 1839.



NEW UNION CHRISTIAN CHURCH celebrated its 192nd anniversary last Sunday during its regular worship service. Located at the crossroads of Old Frankfort Pike, Pisgah Pike and Paynes Depot, the church, built on land donated by the Tavner family, has been worshipping and discipling from the same location since its founding. Joining the congregation were ancestors of the founding members, along with the presidents of Midway University and Transylvania University, *Woodford Sun* Publisher Ben Chandler, whose great-great-great-great- grandparents were founding members and donated the land on which the church stands, as well as other faith leaders. (Photo submitted)



REV. DR. DEBORAH PHELPS is pictured with Midway University President John Marsden, Sam Hatfield, a student minister and senior at Transylvania University, and President Brien Lewis of Transylvania University. (Photo submitted)

Church records from 1840 tell of New Union Minister L.L. Pinkerton baptizing James Ware Parrish. By 1844, Pinkerton, Parrish and 19 members of the Union church were among those sent to found Midway Christian Church in the new and growing railroad town.

In 1847, Pinkerton, Parrish and John T. Johnson worked with members of the Midway and New Union congregations to help Pinkerton realize his vision of a Kentucky Female Orphan's School to provide a home, quality education and a future of leadership to orphans in Kentucky. That school has continued to evolve into the thriving Midway University.

In addition to its Midway ties, New Union recognized its ties to Transylvania and the College of the Bible (now Lexington Theological Seminary), and from those ties a procession of well-known professor-preachers from Transylvania and Midway universities and the College of the Bible, usually filled the church pulpit.

During last Sunday's worship and gathering, the church also recognized descendants of the church's original charter members, including Ben Chandler, whose great-great-great-great grandparents, Tavner and Anne Hicks Branham, helped pave the way for the new church with a land donation, along with descendants of the Branham, Harris, Dunlap, Field and Gay families who are still living in the area.

Also joining the New Union congregation were: President Dr. John Marsden of Midway University, President Brien Lewis of Transylvania University, Rev. Dr. Katherine Alexander from Lexington Theological Seminary, Marsha Thornton Jr. from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky, Mary Lynn Spaulding and Alice Alt of Christian Care Communities, operating Homeplace at Midway, and New Union Minister Emerita Rev. Nancy Jo Kemper, who served New Union for 22 years until 2017.

PURSUANT TO KRS 424.290, "MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED," THE FOLLOWING RACES AND QUESTION WILL APPEAR ON THE VOTING MACHINES AND PAPER BALLOTS IN THE PRECINCTS LISTED IN WOODFORD COUNTY FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 2026.

STRAIGHT PARTY
- ☐ Republican Party
- ☐ Democratic Party
- ☐ Kentucky Party

UNITED STATES SENATOR
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Andy BARR — Republican Party
- ☐ Charles BOOKER — Democratic Party
- ☐ Christopher CAMPBELL — Kentucky Party
- ☐ Write-in

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE in CONGRESS 6th Congressional District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Ralph ALVARADO — Republican Party
- ☐ Zach DEMBO — Democratic Party
- ☐ Jay J BOWMAN — Independent
- ☐ Pete LYNCH — Kentucky Party
- ☐ Write-in

STATE SENATOR 12th Senatorial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Amanda Mays BLEDSOE — Republican Party
- ☐ Write-in

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 56th Representative District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Daniel A. FISTER — Republican Party
- ☐ David GRAVES — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR
(Vote for One)
- ☐ John Paul COYLE — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Michael DUCKWORTH — Republican Party
- ☐ James KAY — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

COUNTY ATTORNEY
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Carmine G. IACCARINO — Republican Party
- ☐ Cassie W. BARNES — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

COUNTY CLERK
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Amanda CENTERS — Republican Party
- ☐ Jackie ANTHONY — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

ALL PRECINCTS

SHERIFF
(Vote for One)
- ☐ John WILHOIT — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

JAILER
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Sean WILLIAMS — Republican Party
- ☐ Michele Shryock RANKIN — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

CORONER
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Penny BAKER — Republican Party
- ☐ Write-in

COUNTY SURVEYOR
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Write-in

ALL PRECINCTS

MAGISTRATE 1st Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Donald MITCHELL — Republican Party
- ☐ Liles TAYLOR — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

CONSTABLE 1st Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Write-in

NORTHSIDE SCHOOL COUNTY

MAGISTRATE 2nd Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Chris HOOTEN — Republican Party
- ☐ John GENTRY — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

CONSTABLE 2nd Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Write-in

MILLVILLE FIREHOUSE

MAGISTRATE 3rd Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Darrell VARNER — Republican Party
- ☐ Amy Thomas IWAHARA — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

CONSTABLE 3rd Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Write-in

HIGH SCHOOL COUNTY

MAGISTRATE 4th Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Teresa HUDDLESTON — Republican Party
- ☐ Kelly CARL — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

CONSTABLE 4th Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Write-in

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MAGISTRATE 5th Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ William DOWNEY — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

CONSTABLE 5th Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Write-in

COURTHOUSE

MAGISTRATE 6th Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Michael B. GAMPPER — Republican Party
- ☐ Larry BLACKFORD — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

CONSTABLE 6th Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Ryan SCOTT — Republican Party
- ☐ Write-in

HUNTERTOWN CHURCH OF NAZA

MAGISTRATE 7th Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Mary Ann GILL — Republican Party
- ☐ Joe JOHNSON — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

CONSTABLE 7th Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Write-in

SYCAMORE FIRE HOUSE #3

MAGISTRATE 8th Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Joshua D. KIGHT — Republican Party
- ☐ Linda Shryock POPP — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

CONSTABLE 8th Magisterial District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Jeff BOWMAN — Democratic Party
- ☐ Write-in

THE JACK JOUETT HOUSE

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL BALLOT
(Vote for One in Each Division)

JUDGE of the COURT of APPEALS 5th Appellate District 1st Division (Unexpired Term)
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Lucy Ferguson VanMETER
- ☐ Will MOYNAHAN
- ☐ Write-in

DISTRICT JUDGE 14th Judicial District 1st Division
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Bolton BEVINS
- ☐ Write-in

DISTRICT JUDGE 14th Judicial District 2nd Division
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Sarah Hays SPEDDING
- ☐ Write-in

NONPARTISAN BALLOT

SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS
(Vote for Three)
- ☐ Brad CARMICKLE
- ☐ Curtis CONGLETON JR.
- ☐ James MANSFIELD
- ☐ Robert RICHARDSON II.
- ☐ Jesse I. DAHL
- ☐ Write-in

ALL PRECINCTS

NONPARTISAN "SCHOOL CANDIDATES"

MEMBER BOARD of EDUCATION 2nd Educational District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Adam BRICKLER
- ☐ Crystal COLLINS
- ☐ Write-in

PART OF MILLVILLE FIREHOUSE, MIDDLE SCHOOL, COURTHOUSE, AND THE JACK JOUETT HOUSE

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Legacy of Excellence. Future of Opportunity. Stewardship

By Dr. Lori Jones
Superintendent of Woodford County Public Schools

Last fall, we began the process of gathering input from our community, families, students and staff regarding our strategic vision for Woodford County Public Schools over the next five years. This process was incredible!

Data from over 800 survey respondents, 12 focus groups and individual rounding sessions with hundreds of employees made up the information that informed our new strategic vision. This vision has four pillars that represent the areas on which we will focus our time, energy and resources. They are: successful and engaged students, skilled and committed teams, community and caregiver partnerships and stewardship.

For this month's column, I'd like to expand on stewardship.

I chose to apply for the superintendency in our wonderful community for many reasons. I'm blessed to work with top-notch educators who are committed to providing a world-class education for each and every student who calls Woodford County Public Schools home. These were the reasons that our strategic vision steering committee chose our new motto: *Legacy of Excellence. Future of Opportunity.*

The employees of our school district are very proud to continue this legacy each and every day. A few of our most recent accolades include: Five-star Rating Preschool Programs (highest in the state), the only school district in the state to earn national accreditation and competency-based education certification, demonstrating our capability to personalize instruction and verify student mastery for college and career readiness, and last week, Woodford County High School earned a blue rating, ranked in the top 22 high schools in the state (2nd in surrounding districts).

We know that we will not be able to accomplish such a vision without community partnerships and stewardship of our resources.

"We chose to buy a house in Woodford because of the school system." It's a quote I hear almost daily as I'm in the community. Whether your roots are firmly planted or just being established, Woodford County has a lot to offer our citizens. Communities, like ours, establish shared values, collaboration and ownership between the schools and our community at large. Developing an interwoven partnership catapults our community forward.

Our students are the heartbeat of the community, always participating in community events, service projects and making us proud in the arts, academics, extracurricular areas and athletics.

Recognizing that our school system is a key asset to our Woodford County community, where 78 percent of funding comes from local taxes from our citizens, *we are committed to being the best stewards of our resources.*

Webster's Dictionary defines stewardship as the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care (2026). Team Woodford commits to the careful and responsible management of facilities, operations and processes. Our leaders have established a scorecard with goals that measure progress toward this pillar of stewardship.

Last year, we launched expanded budget transparency initiatives, established a budget committee with open meetings, hosted community HIVE sessions and made detailed financial breakdowns publicly available on our website and during board meetings. We genuinely appreciate the hundreds of citizens who attended our community informational sessions over the summer to listen and support our schools.

Your investment helps us retain exceptional staff, keep our facilities safe and equip our students to compete in a rapidly changing world. Excellent schools protect property values, attract local commerce and define the health of our community for decades to come.

Together we will work to keep our school district strong, accountable and focused on what matters most: the children who represent our county's future.

Supporting our local schools means protecting the heartbeat of our community—from the front office staff and dedicated teachers who keep our classrooms small, safe and engaging, to the interventionists and coaches who build confidence, resilience and belonging in every child. By safeguarding essential career pathways, vibrant arts programs, trusted resource officers, reliable transportation and top-tier learning tools, we stand together to preserve the strong foundation, stability and bright futures that every student deserves.

Dr. Lori Jones, Ed.D., is the Superintendent of Woodford County Public Schools, and she is now writing a regular column for the Sun.



DR. KILEN GRAY, DMin, addressed a sold-out crowd at the Woodford Chapter of the NAACP's Annual Gala on Saturday night. A recording of his complete address is posted on the *Sun's* Facebook page. (Photo by Scott White)

NAACP

Continued from p. 1

Louisville and a co-founder and C.E.O. of Creative Spirits Behavioral Health Center, working in the batterer intervention program, and a former professor and dean at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

In his address, Gray built from the theme of "erasement" of people, groups and history in "such a time as this."

Using the Book of Esther as his primary vehicle for the speech, Gray reminded listeners that a desire to erase a whole people from history, as seems to be happening now with the attempts to erase or minimize Black and Brown history, is nothing new, but was also Esther's story three millennia ago – when the King sought to eradicate the Israeli people and its history in the Kingdom. Gray pointed out that to erase a specific group is really no more than trying to erase a part of yourself.

"I want you to just touch your neighbor and just say, 'What's up, cuz? What's up, cuz? What's up?' Because you're not lying. You just told the truth. We all... derived... from the same gene pool. . . . All of us started when you traced your lineage *all the way back to the very beginning*. Every one of us in here can trace our lineage to Mother Africa," he said. "We know that our differences are arbitrary. They are contrivances of economics. of economic rules that somebody created sometime. All crafted to separate God's children."

He continued making the point of unity and commonality.

"Just go back to Genesis 1. And be reminded that we all derive from the same divine heart. The same creator God. All of us. We started from the same thing," he said. "(But) what happens to us? It causes us to create categories, divisions, sections. Places and people that can't come into our neighborhoods. Wow. Jobs that are only crafted for certain groups of cousins. Yeah. And when we rise up in the morning, every one of us all say, or should, God, thank you for another day."

Gray then made the clear point that we are living, "in a time such as this," in an "Esther time," where our collective history risks erasure.

"I used to serve as one of the commissioners of the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission. And our work was to try to preserve the very stories that now people in power are trying to dismiss," he said. "You can't erase history without erasing me."

He then warned, "Then after my history is erased, then you come next. Because this room is a room full of immigrants. Just say your last name. And you will be reminded that none of us started here."

Gray concluded that hope abounds, yet there is work for everyone to do, not just the Woodford Chapter of the NAACP.

"Try it again. Look at your neighbor, say, 'What's up, cuz?' I think tonight we are united by strength, *inspired by service for such a time as this.* And that last phrase was not written by a marketing committee. It comes from the mouth of an old man named Mordecai speaking to a young woman named Esther. In a moment when everything that people had ever been was on the edge of being wiped off the record and wiped off the earth," he said. "And, like this, 'just a time' is just like that time – a people without a story is easier to destroy. And that's why we work hard to preserve our stories, because our stories are our life."

This story attempts to summarize the main points of a remarkable speech by Dr. Kilen Gray, DMin. As a community service, a recording of his full keynote address will be posted on the Sun's Facebook page.

COUNCIL

Continued from p. 1

later council meetings when he said, "I am 100 percent against data centers."

Siegelman continued, again setting out all the reasons the proposed re-zoning request by Singh was good for the city and should be approved by the City Council.

At that point, both Mayor Laura Dake and Moore interrupted Siegelman to tell him he was improperly making statements on the merits of the request before the council had even made its initial decision on whether to hold a hearing. The concern, which had already been expressed by Miller, was that failure to follow the process Moore had described, would expose the city to a lawsuit by anyone challenging the approval of Singh's re-zoning request.

While Moore was re-explaining the process to Siegelman, Siegelman interrupted and began talking over Moore. At that point, Councilmember Chantel Brown Bingham interrupted, saying, "Point of order! Let our attorney finish speaking." Siegelman ignored her and continued speaking, which led to the councilmembers and audience laughing.

Councilmember Lisa Johnson then asked, "Is the issue now whether Mr. Siegelman can continue to participate?"

Moore explained that the ordinances were silent on how to proceed when a member requested the recusal or disqualification of another member on an issue before the council. He said he would research the issue and provide an opinion before the next meeting.

Dake then said the matter would be decided at the next council meeting on Nov. 4, and urged councilmembers to review the large Commission record so the council could take action at the next meeting. Finally, the meeting proceeded to the next agenda item.

Russeltown lights

Siegelman soon found himself the center of another tense debate later in the meeting.

Bingham, during the council's miscellaneous section of the agenda, requested that lights be installed at Russeltown, which she said is extremely dark at night. She said she brought this up before council two months ago and no action has since been taken.

Bingham reported she had asked Public Works Assistant Director Daniel Knight, via text, why no action had been taken, and he responded that, "Freddie said no one wanted lights put up." Bingham, who has been involved in this for several months and was visibly frustrated, said this was not acceptable and action needed to be taken.

Siegelman replied, saying he had spoken to the woman who had requested the light. "We can put one up, but we need to see what other (residents) think," he said he told her. He then reported that he spoke to another resident who claimed to have spoken to all of the residents, and the woman was the only person who wanted a light installed.

Dake then asked Public Works Director Bart Miller about the status of the lights, and he replied, "We are waiting for direction from council and the mayor."

With the approval of Bingham, Dake assigned the issue to the streets committee to meet and make a recommendation for council to then act on.

Before moving on, Bingham told Siegelman that he had overstepped and she knew other residents wanted lights. "One person has told us she does not feel safe and she shouldn't have had to wait a year for some action (to be taken). I have been asking for a light or lights to be put out there; I grew up out there, I know where they are. The socio-economic status of those residents doesn't mean they aren't entitled to (get action taken by the council)."

Highbramble Park

City Clerk Elizabeth Reynolds updated the City Council on the status of the Highbramble Park default on its loan with the bank who had financed the deal.

She said the city and the bank have agreed on a 90-day extension to try to resolve the issue caused by the owners of Highbramble Park. Reynolds then explained that the extension was secured by the bank placing in escrow the full amount of the next loan payment due in December, which means no taxpayer dollars are at risk and no taxpayer dollars have been used at any time since the Highbramble owners default.

Further, she said this will also allow the city to take the steps it needs if it appears a new agreement cannot be reached, and the city has to take legal action.

Siegelman commented that this is why he has been asking about this issue, "I don't want us to lose our place in line if things go bad."

Moore explained that this is not a risk at all because "there is no line; (the city) owns the land," meaning the city is secured by being able to retake possession and sell the land. Reynolds also pointed out that the land is now for sale and is being handled by a reputable real estate company.

Siegelman also asked how the property was being maintained during this time. Reynolds reminded him that the barns used by the harness racing stables are being used and lease payments being made, and this was sufficient to cover the maintenance costs.

CONTINUED

MEMBER BOARD of EDUCATION
5th Educational District
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Lyen C. CREWS II.
- ☐ Write-in

PART OF COURTHOUSE, HUNTERTOWN CHURCH OF NAZA, SYCAMORE FIRE HOUSE #3, AND THE JACK JOUETT HOUSE

NONPARTISAN CITY BALLOT

MAYOR
City of Midway
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Grayson VANDEGRIFT
- ☐ Write-in

CITY COUNCIL
City of Midway
(Vote for up to Six)
- ☐ Ian VanSTEENBERGH
- ☐ Harvey COUCH
- ☐ Kaye Nita GALLAGHER
- ☐ Logan NANCE
- ☐ Zachary RANKIN
- ☐ Mary C. RAGLIN
- ☐ Ray ADEE
- ☐ Steve SIMOFF
- ☐ Write-in

PART OF NORTHSIDE SCHOOL COUNTY

MAYOR
City of Versailles
(Vote for One)
- ☐ Jason DEVORE
- ☐ Nick GREEN
- ☐ Cory COOLEY
- ☐ Fred SIEGELMAN
- ☐ Laura DAKE
- ☐ Write-in

CITY COUNCIL
City of Versailles
(Vote for up to Six)
- ☐ Gary W. JONES
- ☐ Chantel BROWN-BINGHAM
- ☐ Lisa C. JOHNSON
- ☐ Emily PORTER
- ☐ Ann MILLER
- ☐ Mary Ellen BRADLEY
- ☐ Joe BELFORD
- ☐ Aaron SMITHER
- ☐ Brad FISTER
- ☐ Fred J. POWERS JR.
- ☐ Write-in

PART OF MILLVILLE FIREHOUSE, HIGH SCHOOL COUNTY, MIDDLE SCHOOL, COURTHOUSE, HUNTERTOWN CHURCH OF NAZA, AND SYCAMORE FIRE HOUSE #3

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1

Are you in favor of limiting a Governor's ability to grant pardons or commute sentences by prohibiting him or her from granting pardons or commuting sentences during the time period beginning 60 days prior to the general election at which the Governor is elected, and ending when the Governor is sworn in for that term by amending the Constitution of Kentucky as stated below?

It is proposed that Section 77 of the Constitution of Kentucky be amended to read as follows:

(1) The Governor shall have power to:

(a) Remit fines and forfeitures; and

(b) Commute sentences and grant reprieves and pardons, except:

1. In case of impeachment; or
2. For the period beginning sixty days prior to the date of the gubernatorial election and ending the fifth Tuesday succeeding the election.

(2) The Governor shall file with each application therefor a statement of the reasons for his or her decision thereon, which application and statement shall always be open to public inspection.

(3) In cases of treason, the Governor shall have power to grant reprieves until the end of the next session of the General Assembly, in which the power of pardoning shall be vested; but he or she shall have no power to remit the fees of the Clerk, Sheriff, or Commonwealth's Attorney in penal or criminal cases.

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

ALL PRECINCTS

Community Calendar

The deadline for Community Calendar items is Noon Monday.

Community Bible Study

Psalm 119:105 – Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Come with a "thirst." Bring a Bible, pen, paper and your coffee.

The study will be held at the Versailles Presbyterian Church Welcome Center, 130 N. Main St. on the first and third Saturdays at 10 a.m. with Minister Larry Blackford, lblackford.magistrate@gmail.com, 859-492-4075.

Mentors & Meals

Make a difference in a middle school student's life. Mentors & Meals seeks high school mentors, college role-models, and adult volunteers to provide homework help as compassionate mentors. This free after-school program offers academic support, enrichment activities, snacks, and hot meals Monday–Thursday, 3–5:30 p.m., at the First Christian Church Family Life Center (across from CVS Pharmacy). Transportation for students is provided to the program with parent/guardian pick up by 5:30 p.m. Student enrollment is open for grades 6–8, but space is limited, so contact us soon. Interested in volunteering or enrolling a student? Visit www.mentors-meals.org or email Program Director McKenna Halderman, mckenna@mentors-meals.org.

Midway Toastmasters

Midway Toastmasters meets every Monday at 6 p.m. in the basement of the Little Memorial Library on the Midway University campus. Meetings are open to the public and visitors are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact the club at nick@safetyreloaded.org or 859-397-5068.

Parkinson's Exercise & Support

Woodford County offers free classes and support for individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers. Join us and experience exercise, encouragement, and fellowship.

Classes are at The Cross Center at Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church, 480 Duckers Road, Midway (behind the church with ample parking). Please check in at the front desk for all classes.

Drums Alive is on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Beat the drums to the rhythm of music, movement, and laughter.

Monthly Support Group is on the third Thursday of each month with snacks and fellowship from 6-6:30 p.m. and a support group meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share.

For more information, call 859-421-6678 or 502-330-5819.

Rotary Club of Woodford County

The local Rotary lunch/speaker meeting is the third Tuesday of each month at Versailles Brewing Company from 12-1 p.m. in their private room. Lunch is ordered off the menu. There is no guest meeting charge. Check out more on the Rotary Club of Woodford County Facebook page.

Survivors of Suicide

The Woodford Survivors of Suicide Loss Group meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the community room (5th floor) of the WesBanco building. The address is 100 United Drive, Versailles. Please contact Julie Renner at 859-421-7697 if you have any questions or would like to attend.

Versailles Kiwanis Club

The club's monthly meetings are held the fourth Tuesday each month at 11:30 a.m. at Callie's Homestyle Restaurant.

For membership inquiries, please contact club president William Downey at 859-351-4429 or wkdowney5@gmail.com.

Woodford County Chamber of Commerce

Oct. 23, Lunch and Learn, "Refuge for Women – Trafficking & Exploitation Prevention," at The Little House on Lexington Street at noon.

Oct. 25, Woodford Spooktacular, downtown Versailles 4 to 8 p.m.

Woodford County Democratic Women's Club

The Woodford County Democratic Women's Club will meet Monday, Oct. 26, at the Versailles Brewing Company at 6 p.m, and will host a candidate carousel. All registered Democrats are welcome. Email DWCWC40383@gmail.com for more details.

Woodford Co. Extension Homemakers Assn.

Circle of Friends: third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m.

Patchwork: third Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

Woodford County NAACP

We meet every second Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Woodford Library Community Room. All are welcome.

Woodford County Republican Party

The Woodford County Republican Party meets the first Monday of every month.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at Versailles Brewing Company, 513 Marsailles Rd.

Woodford County Salvation Army Unit

The Woodford County Salvation Army Unit meets on the second Thursday of the month at Centerpoint Health at 9 a.m. in the second floor conference room. The unit is always looking for new volunteers. Salvation Army helps with many community organizations such as Coats and Shoes for Kids, Bluegrass Community Action, Family Resource Centers and the Red Kettle campaign. Anyone is welcome to attend.



THE WOODFORD COUNTY WOMAN'S CLUB GARDEN DEPARTMENT enjoyed an outing to Waterfront Botanical Garden and lunch at the River House Restaurant in Louisville on Oct. 4. From left, Gilliain Favell, Becky Greco, Linda Busby, Joy Culberson, Vicki Scott, Ellen Hellard, Lois Metzger, Brenda Jackson and Nancy Blackford. (Photo submitted)



WOODFORD COUNTY BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S members are pictured with Judge-Executive James Kay for a proclamation signing declaring Oct. 20-24 Kentucky Business and Professional Women's Week. There are several other celebrations planned for the month of October. Contact any member of the club for more membership information. From left, Brenda Richards, Laura Gray, Danita Kirtley, Lynne Woodrum, president; Kay (seated); Lillian Bland, Missy Trumbore and Teresa Chervus. (Photo submitted)



MENTORS & MEALS STAR STUDENTS for September are sixth graders Eddie Jackson and Sophia Buckman. STAR stands for Smart, Trusting, Achieving, Respectful. Pictured from left, Eddie Jackson, Program Director McKenna Halderman and Sophia Buckman. (Photo submitted)



GEORGETOWN MASONIC LODGE NO. 3 traveled to Woodford County on Tuesday, Oct. 13, and presented the District 20 Traveling Gavel to Buford-Landmark Masonic Lodge No. 41 in honor of David Paul's last meeting as district deputy grand master for the district. From left, Johnny Mils, Danny Judd, David Paul, Rick Smith and Tony McKenzie. (Photo submitted)



DAVID PAUL, with Buford-Landmark Masonic Lodge No. 41, was presented the Daniel Boone Award of Distinction by Most Worshipful Grand Master Luke Martin on Sunday, Oct. 18, during the Annual Grand Master's Banquet of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky at the Galt House in Louisville. The award is presented to Kentucky masons who demonstrate exceptional dedication to the Masonic fraternity, unselfish service to Freemasonry, lasting contributions to the craft throughout Kentucky and leadership beyond ordinary lodge responsibilities. From left, Martin and Paul. (Photo submitted).

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OBITUARIES & CHURCH NEWS

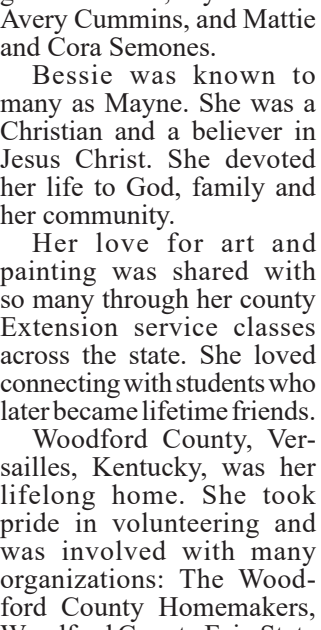
Arnett

Gary C. Arnett, 83, passed away on October 14, 2026. Gary was the son of Clinton and W. Jean Arnett of Salyersville, KY. He is survived by his beloved wife, Brian Ann Arnett, and his son, Jeffrey C. Arnett.

Gary earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Eastern Kentucky University and built a career in business and operations. He worked as Manager of Order Processing at Trane in Lexington, KY, where he dedicated many years to his profession.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Berea College in honor of Gary's memory.

No public services are scheduled.



Bain

Bessie Eaves Bain, 94, of Versailles, passed away on Oct. 17, 2026, with her loving family by her side. She was born to Virgil and Minnie Tate Eaves on Oct. 16, 1932.

Bessie was a graduate of Versailles High School and a lifelong career employee of Texas Instruments.

She was married to Donald Lee Bain for 61 years. They had three children, Steven Allen Bain, Dewey Thomas Bain and Sally Bain Semones.

Their pride and joy were their grandchildren, Christopher (Lyndsay) Semones and Ashley Semones (Kevin) Cummins, and great-grandchildren, Ayden and Avery Cummins, and Mattie and Cora Semones.

Bessie was known to many as Mayne. She was a Christian and a believer in Jesus Christ. She devoted her life to God, family and her community.

Her love for art and painting was shared with so many through her county Extension service classes across the state. She loved connecting with students who later became lifetime friends.

Woodford County, Versailles, Kentucky, was her lifelong home. She took pride in volunteering and was involved with many organizations: The Woodford County Homemakers, Woodford County Fair, State Fair Pride of the Counties, the Quilt Trail, the Jack Jouett House, Neighbors Helping Neighbors and so many more. Her passion was giving back, and that she did, twofold. She brought so much light to everything and everyone she touched. She was a pillar of strength, warmth and grace.

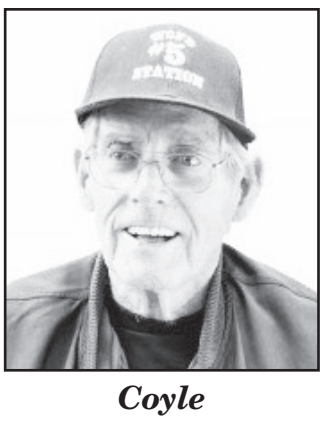
Bessie leaves behind a devoted daughter, Sally, and son-in-law, Phillip Semones; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; a special sister-in-law, Marjorie Bain Eaves; and a host of sweet nieces and nephews.

She had a good, long life. She taught and led by example with Christian values, as well as being a good neighbor and humanitarian of good will.

Bessie will be missed by so many because she touched so many while she was here.

A Celebration of Life for family and friends will be held Nov. 1, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the home of Phillip and Sally Semones, 119 Old Hickory Lane, Versailles, KY 40383.

Condolences may be expressed online at www.BlackburnandWard.com



Coyle

Orville Clayton Coyle, 91, widower of Violet Lou Coyle, died on Monday, Oct. 19, 2026. He was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, on Oct. 1, 1935, to the late Lillian Mitchell Coyle and Virgil Aquila Coyle.

He is survived by his sister, Ruby Jones; brother, David Coyle, Nashville, Tenn.; sisters-in-law, Marlene (Eddie) Davis and Peggy (Bebe) Thomas; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Anita Tate and Elsie Mae Coyle, and brothers, William Coyle and Robert Coyle.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Oct. 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Blackburn and Ward Funeral Home, with the funeral taking place at 1 p.m. Burial with full military honors will follow at Versailles Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be the Mortonsville Fire Station firemen.

Friends and family are encouraged to leave messages of condolence and share memories on Orville's tribute wall at www.blackburnandward.com.



King

Myrtle C. King, 89, died on Oct. 18, 2026. Born Sept. 19, 1937, in Woodford County, she was the daughter of the late Porter Carl and Mildred Mitchell Manley.

Myrtle is survived by her son, Allen Perkins, Versailles; daughter, Carol Blackford (Richard), Versailles; sister, Effie Laye, Versailles; grandchildren, Amanda Perkins, Louisville, Katrisha Waldridge, Frankfort, and Nikki Hogan (Andra), St. Louis; great-grandchildren, Braden Justice, Zion Blackford, Jason Rodgers, Josiah Conner, Kiara Blake, Victoria Smotherman, Deandre Malone Jr. and Karis Blake; and great- grandchild, Elora Kozney.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Junior King; son, Billy "Slick" Carpenter; daughter, Cindy Perkins; brothers, Neville Gay, Bill Rice and Bobby Rice; sisters, Jean Goldey and Judy Woodrow; and grandchildren, Ethel Blackford and Richard Junior Blackford.

The funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22, at Blackburn & Ward Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until the time of the service.

Friends and family are encouraged to leave messages of condolence and share memories on Myrtle's tribute wall at www.blackburnandward.com.



Mayer

Nancy Helen Sweazy Mayer passed away on Oct. 14, 2026, at the age of 82. Born on Feb. 23, 1944, she was a nearly lifelong resident of Versailles and a member of a prominent Woodford County family.

She was the daughter of the late Honorable Dr. L.D. Sweazy, long-time president, CEO and chairman of the Woodford Bank and Trust Company, and Helen Dever Sweazy. She was the granddaughter of the Honorable Dr. Clyde Augustus (C.A.) and Nancy Mitchell Sweazy, who served as the superintendent of the Methodist Orphan's Home for 21 years, and M.O. and Ursula Harris Dever, all of whom preceded her in death.

Nancy Helen graduated from Margaret Hall School in 1962 and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Centre College in 1966. She worked as a social worker for the Kentucky Cabinet for Children's Services and later as owner and agent of the McWilliams Insurance Agency. To honor her family's local roots, she established the L.D. Sweazy Memorial Scholarship at Centre College.

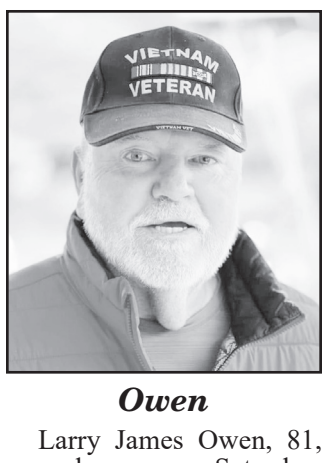
On May 27, 1972, she married Peter Mayer. The couple shared 53 years of marriage and enjoyed world travel together until his passing in March 2026. Nancy was well-known locally for her hospitality, personal style and kindness.

She is survived by her sons, Peter D. Mayer of Columbus, Ohio, and Adam (Cathy) Mayer of Versailles; her grandchildren, Andy Mayer and Daniel Mayer, both of Versailles; a special cousin, Judi (Jack) Royalty, and their children, James (Carrie) Royalty and Carey (Kevin) Pethick; as well as many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, Oct. 26, at 1 p.m. at Blackburn & Ward Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will follow at Bluegrass Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the L.D. Sweazy Memorial Scholarship at Centre College or a charity of your choice.

Friends and family are encouraged to leave messages of condolence and share memories on Nancy's tribute wall at www.blackburnandward.com



Owen

Larry James Owen, 81, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, at Sayre Christian Village in Lexington, Kentucky. He was born in Garrett, Indiana, on April 26, 1945, to the late Russell James and Leisle Fegler Owen.

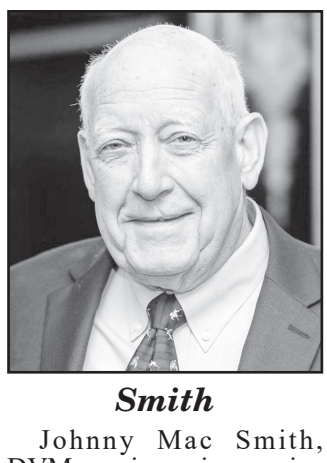
Larry was a veteran of the United States Army and graduated from the University of Kentucky and Louisville Bible College. He was a missionary for many years in Haiti and served many churches, including Sulphur Well Christian Church, Calhoun Christian Church and Woodford Christian Church.

Surviving family includes his wife of 57 years, Diana Marlin Owen; daughter, Jody Castillo (Jose); sons, Bud Owen (Tracey) and Janel Owen (Heather); sister, Joyce Adair; grandchildren, DJ, NeNe, Josiah, Zebadiah, Ruby, Selah, Faith, Lydia, Malaya, Gabe, Levi, Asher, Rosie and Mikela; his foster son, Sonny Huddleston; and many nieces and nephews.

Larry is preceded in death by his daughter, Lori Owen Conley.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Journey Church in Versailles. The service will begin at 1 p.m. Visitation will precede the service, beginning at noon.

Care Cremation and Funeral Service is honored to assist the Owen family during this time.



Smith

Johnny Mac Smith, DVM, a pioneering equine veterinarian, co-founder of one of the nation's leading equine hospitals and longtime steward of equine research, passed away on Oct. 10, 2026. He was 78.

Born on July 19, 1948, in Andalusia, Alabama, Johnny Mac grew up as a farm kid in rural lower Alabama and was drawn to horses at an early age. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Troy State University in 1970 and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University in 1976. As a student, he worked as a farrier and was deeply influenced by the late Dr. John Thomas Vaughan. Throughout his career, he kept a message Vaughan wrote for the Class of 1976 yearbook framed in his office: "Success in this profession doesn't require genius, but rather the willingness to do hard work and do it when it is needed…Set a goal that will test your outer limits and then fight against those limits until you have created a new dimension."

After graduation, he practiced in the Tampa area before establishing a solo practice in Ocala, Florida. In 1981 he and Dr. John Peterson co-founded Peterson & Smith Equine Hospital that grew into one of the largest equine practices in the country. Johnny Mac often credited his wife, Lucy, for believing in him and supporting the leap of faith required to build the clinic. He left active clinical practice in 1993 after developing a severe allergy to horses and relocated with his family to Versailles. He continued his involvement in the equine industry through advising and yearling evaluation. Over time, the allergies lessened, allowing him to become close again to the animals he loved.

Johnny Mac served for 10 years on Keeneland's yearling inspection team, bringing a practical, common-sense approach shaped by decades of practice and farm experience. He was also an appointed member of the Kentucky Equine Drug Research Committee.

His longest, and in his words, most rewarding later-career chapter was with the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. Beginning as a veterinary consultant and later named the first recipient of the A. Gary Lavin Chair in January 2023, he recruited and worked closely with the foundation's Research Advisory Committee. He helped review and select the research projects funded each year – projects that have improved the health and welfare of horses of every breed. He described the combination of the Peterson & Smith practice, his Keeneland service and his Grayson work as "hitting the trifecta." Colleagues and the foundation repeatedly noted his role in connecting researchers, practitioners and institutions so that scientific advances could reach the barn and the racetrack.

In October 2025, Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine presented him with the J.T. Vaughan Outstanding Equine Service Award. Accepting it, he spoke of being surrounded by people who saw in him what he could not always see in himself, and he hoped Dr. Vaughan might have said that he had become "...a fair to middling if not humble and obedient servant to your profession."

Beyond the equine world, Johnny Mac was a cattleman. He served as president of the Senepol Cattle Breeders Association and raised cattle in both Florida and Kentucky, developing lifelong friendships throughout the cattle industry. A longtime member of Pisgah Presbyterian Church, he served as both deacon and elder. He found deep satisfaction in hunting, fishing and feeding family and friends from the garden and farm, taking quiet pleasure in the simple gifts of the land.

Johnny Mac is survived by his devoted wife, Lucy; his sister, Betty (David) Sport; his nephew, Greg (Wilma) Sport; his niece, Susan (Mac) Walden; his sons, William (Amanda) Smith, Jesse (Jessica) Smith, and John (Hope) Smith; and nine grandchildren. He was preceded by many mentors and colleagues, including his longtime partner and friend Dr. John Peterson.

Those who met Johnny Mac immediately understood that he possessed an uncommon ability to make people and horses feel known and cared for. He was a friend to all, a patient mentor to many and a father (or grandfather) figure to far more than his own family. He will be remembered for his hard work, his practical wisdom, his quiet leadership and for his lasting impact on the equine profession and the people in it.

Funeral services will be held for Johnny Mac at Pisgah Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m., followed by a reception at The Thoroughbred Club.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. Condolences may be expressed online at www.BlackburnandWard.com.



Rankin

Matthew Scott Rankin entered into eternal life on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026. He was born on Oct. 8, 1996, in Lexington and raised in Midway.

He was a loyal son, brother, grandson, uncle, nephew and cousin, and was a friend to so many. Matthew had a generous heart and infectious smile. He loved being outdoors fishing, hiking, boating and spending time with family and friends. He was proud of the landscaping business he built over five years ago.

Matthew is survived by his parents, Michael and Rhonda Rankin; brother, Zachary (Jennifer) Rankin; niece, Lily Rankin; nephew, Luke Rankin; brother, Hayden (Briana) Rankin; paternal grandmother, Helen Puckett; aunt, Debbie (Jimmy) Trayner Price; cousin, Chad (Sara) Trayner; uncle, Bob Rankin; aunt, Debbie Rankin; and a host of extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Ronald and Jane Trayner, and paternal grandfather, Robert Puckett.

While our hearts are heavy with grief, we take comfort in knowing that Matthew is now at rest in the presence of the Lord, free from pain and filled with eternal peace. He was baptized on Dec. 24, 2006, at Midway Baptist Church.

Visitation will be Thursday, Oct. 22, from 4 to 7 p.m., and a Celebration of Life will begin at 7 p.m. at Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church, 480 Duckers Road, Midway, KY 40347.

Honorary pallbearers are Chad Trayner, Brandon Hood, Demond Wilson, Joseph Steele, Hunter Reed and Agustin Zambrano.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Matthew's honor to one of the following organizations: Brothers' Run (https://www.brothersrun.com/) or Rae of Sunshine (https://www.raeofsunshineky.org). Brothers' Run is dedicated to supporting adolescent mental health and suicide prevention programs in schools and communities. Rae of Sunshine Foundation works to eliminate mental health stigma and support youth emotional well-being through acts of kindness, school initiatives and community outreach.

Friends and family are encouraged to leave messages of condolence and share memories on Matthew's tribute wall at www.blackburnandward.com.

See page 10 for Tommy Turner's obituary.

Church News Guidelines

The *Sun* welcomes brief notices from local (Woodford County) churches to run free each week. Since space is a factor, church notices should be **no longer than 100 words** and written in *complete sentences*. The notices should be written in the *third person.* The deadline for all church notices is noon on Monday of the week of publication, except for weeks with a Monday holiday (Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc.), when notices are due at noon on the Friday preceding the week of publication.

Notices may be sent via email (preferred) to news@woodfordsun.com or dropped off at our front office at 184 S. Main Street.

Obituaries & Church News



Turner

John Thomas "Tommy" Turner, 85, of Versailles, entered eternal rest peacefully on Oct. 14, 2026, reunited with his wife, Joyce, and son, Gregg.

He was a cherished father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. Known for his quick wit and sense of humor, Tommy brought laughter to every room he entered. Guided by his strong faith, he touched so many lives and will be missed by more people than words could ever say.

Tommy attended Versailles High School. He served in the Kentucky Army National Guard and was a member of Landmark Lodge #41. Tommy was a devoted member of Pinkard Baptist Church, where his faith shone through as he enjoyed singing in the choir. He served the community that he dearly loved as a Woodford County Fiscal Court magistrate for 29 years.

Tommy was an avid golfer (5 handicap) and fisherman. He loved spending time with his family, bringing his playful humor and warmth to every gathering, and most Sunday afternoons could be found playing cards or an extremely competitive game of croquet with them.

During the span of his 41-year career as a life insurance salesman for Commonwealth Life Insurance, Tommy had the pleasure of visiting his clients' homes monthly not only to collect their premiums and discuss policies, but to form many lifelong friendships. He always said those friendships were the best part of his job.

Tommy was born in Versailles on May 12, 1941, to the late John and Sue Leach Turner.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 59 years, Joyce Perkins Turner, and his beloved son, Gregg A. Turner. He was also preceded in death by his brothers, William "Billy" Turner and Jerry W. Turner; mother-in-law, Oreena Lloyd; and brother-in-law, Wayne Woolums.

Survivors include his children, Felicia Pitasi (Tony), Rita Maple (Tim), Dee Nuckols (Bob) and J.T. Turner (Cara); grandchildren, Amanda Maggard (Jared Vaughn), Steven Olekas, Erik Mathews (Jennifer) and Jonathan Britton (Olivia); great-grandchildren, Ada Britton, John Woodford Maggard and Emma Britton; his sister, Sondra Woolums; brothers-in-law, Bill Kincaid (Debbie), Kenny Kincaid (Mary) and Wayne Kincaid (Dixie); and several loving nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Kayla Macey, Laurie Dorough and all the staff at Daisy Hill/Pathways for their outstanding care and the love they showed our father. He loved each of you dearly, and we are profoundly grateful for your kindness and support.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Pinckard Baptist Church in Versailles. Rev. Larry Blackford will officiate. Burial will follow in Rose Crest Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the funeral service from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Serving as pallbearers will be Brian Turner, Jonathan Britton, Steven Olekas, Jared Vaughn, Earl Trent and Tim Maple. Honorary pallbearers will be Amanda Maggard, Erik Mathews and Brian Nesselrode.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association.

Care Cremation and Funeral Service is honored to serve the Turner family during this time.

ChurchNews

Clear Creek Baptist

Sunday worship service is at 8:30 a.m and 11 a.m. with a livestream of the 11 a.m. service on Facebook. Adult and youth Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m.; Wednesday evening prayer meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with Adult Bible Study and Book Club at 7 p.m. Clear Creek is located at 30 Pinckard Pike (corner of 169 and 33).

Clover Bottom Baptist

We invite you to join us in worship and Bible study at Clover Bottom. We are located south of Nonesuch at 6321 Fords Mill Road (#1965).

Our Sunday schedule begins with Sunday school classes for all ages at 10 a.m., followed by morning worship service (traditional style) at 11 a.m. and Bible study at 6 p.m. Our midweek Bible study is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. See our Facebook page for current events and other news.

First Christian (Disciples of Christ)

Everyone is welcome to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. for our traditional service, 10 a.m. for Sunday School, or 11:05 a.m. for our contemporary service. Our small groups and youth group meet every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The church's devotional library by the garden on Locust Street is open to everyone. If you have any questions or want more information, please call the church office at 859-873-3901 or email fccdoc@windstream.net. The church is located at 160 Lexington Street in Versailles.

Glen's Creek Baptist

We would like to invite you to our 11 a.m. Sunday Service at the Church (4678 Steele Road, Versailles).

The House of Prayer

Weekly services include Sunday School at 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship at 11:30 a.m.; evening service at 4 p.m.; Tuesday prayer service at 7 p.m.; and Thursday Bible study/pop-up church. Address: 855 Kingsway Dr.

King's Way Church

Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m. (11:30 a.m. Español) for an unforgettable time of worship. Dive deeper midweek on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We are located at 4175 Lexington Rd.

Midway Baptist

Everyone is invited to join Midway Baptist Church in worship. Our Sunday worship times are: 9 a.m. – traditional service; 10 a.m. – Sunday School/small groups with donuts and coffee available; 11 a.m. – contemporary worship. We offer nursery and children's worship during the 11 a.m. service. We are located at 121 S Winter St. in beautiful Midway, where all are welcomed.

Midway Christian (Disciples of Christ)

All are welcome to gather for worship on Sundays at 10:55 a.m. The service is available in person, on YouTube and Facebook. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The theme for October worship services focuses on "Sanctuary" and the subject for the October 25 service is "Becoming A Living Sanctuary: A Table for Everyone" with Luke 14:12-24 as the scripture.

For more information, go to Facebook, YouTube, http://www.midwaychristian.org or contact the church office at 859-846-4102.

Midway Presbyterian

Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. Children's choir practice is at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Adult choir practice 6:30 p.m. on Mondays.

Community Garden clean up days are Saturdays at 10 a.m. All produce is for all the community.

A pumpkin carving party will be on Tuesday Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. with s'mores and bonfires, pumpkins and tools provided.

A carved pumpkin display will be on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 6-8 p.m. There will be prizes for kids and adults in the following categories: Halloween Spirit, Scariest and Most Creative. Pumpkin drop off is from 5-5:45 p.m.

Midway United Methodist

Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m., and can be livestreamed on YouTube at: @johnloper6370.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/MidwayKYUMC or call the office at 859-846-4963.

Millville Christian

Millville Christian Church holds service at 11 a.m. every Sunday on McCracken Pike.

Mortonsville Methodist

This Sunday October 25, the PATRIOT Quartet will be holding the service at 11 a.m. They come to Mortonsville every year the last Sunday in October. We hope you will join us this Sunday and any other Sunday if you don't already have a church home. We are a gathering of love and would love to love you too. We are at 929 Delaney Ferry Road, Versailles.

Mt. Vernon Baptist

We invite you to join us in worship and Bible study at 1220 Old Frankfort Pike, Woodford County. Sunday schedule begins with Fellowship at 9:15 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 10 a.m., Morning Worship at 11 a.m., and Evening Service at 6 p.m. The 11 a.m. Morning Worship is also live streamed on Facebook.

New Hope Baptist

Karen Peck & New River will be in concert Sunday, Oct. 25 at 5 p.m. Tickets are available for a donation of $25. Call ahead to obtain tickets 859-873-1707.

We are located at 3825 Tyrone Pike, Versailles. We hope you can join us.

New Union Christian (Disciples of Christ)

The church invites all to Sunday morning worship at 11 a.m. with options to attend onsite or live on Zoom. Our weekly prayer and friendship group meets Tuesdays on Zoom at 11a.m. This Sunday, Oct 25, 4:00-5:30 p.m., New Union will host another opportunity for Jam & Bread. This gathering is an informal, family-friendly song circle, inviting area acoustic musicians, singers, poets, and listeners to gather in-the-round for uplifting musical harmonies, insights and friendship. All ages are invited, including young musicians and learners. Come as you are. For more information, contact: newunionpastor@gmail.com,

Pinckard Baptist

We have adult, student and child age Sunday school at 10 a.m. every Sunday with morning worship service at 11 a.m. Adult, atudent and children's Wednesday night services are at 7 p.m., with a meal provided before hand at 6 p.m. We are located at 3401 Pinckard Pike, Versailles.

Pisgah Presbyterian

Pisgah has begun its stewardship season which will continue through November 22, 2026.

Sunday school classes for children and adults meet at 9:45 a.m. prior to the worship service at 11 a.m. All are welcome to join Pisgah's Sunday school and service.

Simpson United Methodit

Simpson United Methodist Church, at 100 Simmons St., Versailles, invites you to celebrate our 146th church anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2026, at 11 a.m. Our guest speaker will be the Reverend Rodney Mason, Pastor of Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Cynthiana, Ky. and Wesley United Methodist Church, Georgetown, Ky. Come celebrate with us.

St. Andrew's Anglican

A Service of Morning Prayer is offered at 7:30 a.m. each Wednesday morning in our sanctuary. We invite you to start your day with us in prayer. St. Andrew's is located on 115 Paddock Drive, just off US 60. Our Sunday service is held at 10 a.m. and is live-streamed on the church's website (www.standrewsky.org). Church office hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. We hope you will join us this Sunday.

St. John's Episcopal

We invite you to join us at 8 and 10:30 a.m. for morning worship. "Godly Play for children" is at 10:30 a.m. and brunch is at 11:30 a.m.

A healing service is on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Livestream of the 10:30 service and Compline on Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 p.m. is at http://www.stjohnsky.com.

St. Paul A.M.E.

Pastor Kelly Roberts and the St. Paul A.M.E. Church family invite you to join us for our Fall Rally for Christ events beginning with Revival, Wednesday, Oct. 21 thru Friday, Oct. 23, with devotions at 6:30 pm EDT. This year's theme is: "Answering the Call to Discipleship" with the following guest ministers: Wed., Oct. 21 – Pastor, Minister Robert Lewis, Simpson United Methodist Church, Versailles.; Thursday and Friday, Oct. 22-23 – Pastor Marvin King, Shiloh Baptist Church, Lexington.

Sunday's morning worship service at 9:30 a.m. ends our Fall Rally for Christ eventa with guest preacher, Minister Traci M. Thomas.

St. Leo Catholic

Weekend mass times are 5 p.m. Saturday; 8 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. (Spanish) on Sunday. Coffee and donuts are served the first Sunday of each month after the 8 a.m. mass. Visit https://saintleoparishky.org for weekday mass times. Weekly Rosary is on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. Find our Masses on YouTube.

We are again collecting food for our Thanksgiving baskets which will be distributed on November 14 for needy families. Donations for Oct 24-25 dry beans and sugar; Nov 7-8 tortillas and raman noodles.

Southside Christian

Southside Christian Church, located at 3621 Cabinhill Lane in Versailles, invites the community to attend weekly services.

Sunday School is held at 9 a.m., followed by worship at 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study meets at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays. All are welcome to attend.

Troy Presbyterian

Adult Sunday School is in the Learning Center at 9:30 a.m. The Sunday worship service is at 11 a.m., in person or on YouTube, Facebook or our website, TroychurchKY.org.

This is Stewardship Month. For the next few weeks we will introduce Stewardship Month and pass out time and talent forms and pledge cards.

The Troy men's breakfast group meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 9 a.m. at the Dixie Café in Keene.

The Troy Chili Lunch with a cake walk and Vendors will be Nov. 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday Choir practice is at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Versailles Baptist

VBC offers worship services on Sunday at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. The 8:45 a.m. service is livestreamed on Facebook. Sunday School, for all ages, is at 10 a.m. There is Wednesday night programming for all ages.

Visit our Facebook page for more details at facebook.com/versaillesbaptistchurch.

Versailles Church of God of Prophecy

We will have revival services on October 26 and 27 at 6:30 p.m. nightly. Evangelists will be Donald and Tammy Harding.

We will have a Christian Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 31, starting at 5:30 p.m. with candy, hot dogs and sack lunches.

We are at 445 Laval Heights, Versailles.

Versailles Presbyterian

Versailles Presbyterian Church is an open, welcoming and inclusive church located at 130 North Main St. Rev. Julie Johnson is the pastor. Sunday worship service is at 10 a.m., and is livestreamed via YouTube and Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/versaillespresbyterianchurch).

October is Treats for the Troops month for VPC Shares. Join us in sending the 201st Troop a treat care package. Treats must be individually wrapped (no chocolate, please). Items for the care package are being collected on a table in Fellowship Hall.

Call 859-873-3491 or visit www.versaillespres.org for more information.

Versailles United Methodist

VUMC invites everyone to join in the ministries of the church. Academy Trick or Treat will be Friday, Oct. 30 at 10 a.m. Methodist Mountain Mission truck will be Monday, Nov. 2.

The Sunday worship services are at 9:30 a.m and 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School classes at 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The youth meet at 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. The Ladies of J.O.Y. meet on Monday at 10 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal is on Wednesday, at 6:45 p.m.

Versailles United Methodist Church is located at 230 Payne's Mill Road, 859-873-4304.

Wesley Covenant Fellowship

Join us at Wesley Covenant Fellowship, a Global Methodist Church. Sunday school begins at 9 a.m., followed by fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and worship service at 10 a.m. We're located at 134 Court St. Everyone is welcome. Have questions? Connect with us on Facebook, email info@wesleycovenantfellowship.org, or call 859-682-9542.

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News Of Record

Circuit Court

Oct. 14, 1 p.m.
Kathryn Gabhart, judge

Sentencing

Mustafa Mohammad, 41, of Lexington, was placed on two years probation and ordered to pay a $150 fine for first-degree possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia (misdemeanor), an amended charges of reckless driving (violation) and speeding 25 mph over limit/violation) and a second count of reckless driving (violation). A one-year prison sentence was suspended. Traffic violations of no tail lamps and insufficient head lamps were dismissed under the plea agreement.

Plea

Ricardo Ramirez, 40, of Versailles, pleaded guilty to tampering with physical evidence, first-degree possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia (misdemeanor). The commonwealth recommended five years in prison. Under the plea agreement, license plate not legible (violation) and second-degree persistent felony charges will be dismissed.

Arraignments

John Armstrong, 40, of Versailles, pleaded not guilty to second-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, possession of drug paraphernalia (misdemeanor) and trafficking in marijuana (less than 5 pounds).

Angela McCoy, 36, of Lexington, pleaded not guilty to speeding (16 mph over limit/violation), possession of drug paraphernalia (misdemeanor), operating on a suspended/revoked operator's license (misdemeanor), possession of marijuana (misdemeanor), second-degree criminal abuse/neglect (child under 13), first-degree possession of a controlled substance, failure to produce insurance card (violation), first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance (aggravating circumstances/misdemeanor).

Brandon Rose McGuffey, 38, of Lexington, pleaded not guilty to speeding (17 mph over limit/violation), operating on a suspended/revoked operator's license (misdemeanor), possession of marijuana (misdemeanor) and first-degree possession of a controlled substance.

Brandon Lee Staton, 39, of Lexington, pleaded not guilty to first-degree possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia (misdemeanor) and failure of owner to maintain required insurance (misdemeanor).

Trial date

Joshua Buck, 38, of Versailles, was scheduled to return for a March 15-17 trial date to face charges of fourth-degree assault (misdemeanor), first-degree strangulation, first-degree burglary and first-degree persistent felony offender.

District Court

Oct. 19
Sarah Hays Spedding, judge

Traffic

Speeding – *Traffic school (DSK, STS, CATS):* Dayshon Gipson; Brittney Hayden; Mary Philpot; Patricia Robinson; Matthew Roby; Nubia Beckett; Daymarion Byrd, $55; Mary Carney, $55; Craig Clark; Heejun Lee; Gina Nolfo. *Alive at 25:* Leonel Perez; Kenji Berger; Noah Casey; Jose Cedillo; Astoria Einfeldt; Jackson Harley; Roy Kiptoo; Jason Nesenchuk; Avery Noon. *Remaining speeding guilties:* Rosario Barrios, with no license, $136; Layth Marsoomi, $100; Bo Billings, $100; Jony Chavez-Rodriguez, with no license, $230; Brennan Clark, with no insurance, $280; Tiffany Escobedo, $30; Ducan Gomez, with no license, $155; Jennyfer Ramirez, with no license, $126; Dan Banegas, with no license, $130; Sophia Young, $100.

D.U.I. – Datu Canete, $200/four to six months license suspension/alcohol education; Kory Houchin, $200/four to six months license suspension/alcohol education; Lauren Lockett, $235/four to six months license suspension/alcohol education; Jonathon Oliver, $200/four to six months license suspension/alcohol education.

Reckless driving – Johnny Prater, $100.

Careless driving – Ingrid Mandujano-Duarte, STS; Adam Ntedika, with no license in possession, $100; Whitney Tillman, with no insurance, $550; Angela Benitez, with no license in possession, $100.

Disregard stop sign – Laura Myers, STS.

Improper use of blue lights – David Vest, $40.

Instructional permit violation – Jean Dorcy, $50.

No license in possession – Robert Bowman, $50; Jorge Loaiza, with no seat belt, $75; Katherine Marshall, with improper equipment, $50.

No insurance – Rebecca Hensley, $100; Jaelyn Johnson, $100; Patrick Lobbo, $750; Lauren Taylor, $500; Caleb Thomas, $500.

I.C.E. Holder (This is an order or request by the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement to keep the person in custody until I.C.E. can take custody of that person). – None.

Misdemeanors

Sean Chasteen – assault, fleeing or evading police, resisting arrest, no insurance, and no license, 16 days in jail.

Raymond Boyd – criminal trespassing, sentenced to time served in jail, but number of days not listed.

Demetrius Moxley – possession of marijuana, costs only but forfeits cash seized by police.

Amber Riley – alcohol intoxication in a public place, $25.

Ethen Robinson – alcohol intoxication in a public place, $25.

Jeremiah Brickhouse – D.U.I., with three counts of wanton endangerment, $200/four to six months license suspension/alcohol education/five days in jail.

Terry Givens – trafficking in marijuana, less than eight ounces, possession of drug paraphernalia, alcohol intoxication in a public place, operating on a suspended license, possession of an open container of alcohol, $60 and 93 days, probate 90 days, and serve three days in jail.

Karla Rodriguez – possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) and speeding, two days in jail and STS for speeding offense.

Austin Kennedy – violation of Domestic Violence Order, 97 days, probate 90, and serve seven in jail

About News of Record:

The Woodford Sun reports on this page all traffic and misdemeanor fines in District Court; police reports released from the local or state police departments and sheriff's office; civil suits in Circuit Court; fire reports released by the city and county fire departments, and property transfers recorded in the county clerk's office.

Information on this page is public record. No names will be withheld by request.

Police Reports

Versailles police investigated 14 non-injury and seven injury vehicle collisions, made 9 arrests, had 492 calls for service, and made 33 traffic stops and enforcements from Oct. 11 to Oct. 17, 2026.

Fire Reports

City

The Versailles Fire Department made 10 EMS calls, conducted one fire inspection, responded to one vehicle collision, one car seat installation, and to six alarms from Oct. 13 to 19, 2026.

On Oct. 12, firefighters conducted an odor investigation on Saffron Lane.

On Oct. 15, they responded to a hazardous material release on Hastings Lane.

On Oct. 17, they responded to a gas leak on Mildred Street.

County

The Woodford County Fire Department made90 EMS calls, performed two car seat installations, responded to one false alarm, and responded to six vehicle collisions (one injury) from Oct. 13 to 19, 2026.

On Oct. 15, firefighters responded to a muck pile fire on Moores Mill Road.

Public Records

Suits

Esteny Gonzalez v. Offelio and Estaban Hernandez – tort action for damages caused by vehicle accident.

LVNV Funding, LLC v. Steven Robinson – action on account for $5,793.49.

Citibank, NA v. Kathy Clark – action on account for $6,453.47.

Jedidiah and Ashley Edenstrom v. Woodford County Board of Adjustments and members thereof – appeal from denial of request for a conditional use permit at their property on Watts Ferry Road.

General Electric Credit Union v. Mickey Robinson – action on contract for $33,290.41.

Karen Boden v. Synergy Home, LLC dba Gibson Heating and Cooling, LLC and Black Diamond Termite & Pest Control, Inc. – breach of contract and warranties related to work on plaintiffs' home.

Onemain Financial Group, LLC v. Brian Thompson – action on note for $10,020.4.

Editor's note: civil suits when filed are allegations, nothing has been proven, and only tell the side of the plaintiff, the person bringing the lawsuit. At time of reporting, the Defendant in the lawsuit has not responded with their side.

Deeds

Trina Michele Penn, as trustee of the Wilma J. Craycroft Living Trust, to Janet Y. Birch, 776 Flint Ridge, $455,000.

Janet Y. Birch to Jimmie Ray Myers and Sara Jean Myers, 130 Carriage Lane, Midway, $375,000.

Randall Robinson Jr. and Angela Lynn Robinson to Jonathan Edward Meadows and Catherine Meadows, 407 Sweetbay Court, $330,000.

Ball Homes, LLC to Kody Kasey and Abi Kasey, 130 Gainsborough Lane, $354,450.

Ball Homes, LLC to Leslie Carol Atwood, 141 Gainsborough Lane, $352,056.

Richard Patrick McDonald and Ashley McDonald to Armitage Farm, LLC (James McLane, member), 56.919 acres on Woodlake Road, $1,241,972.58.

Charles David Paul and Pamela Paul to Gary J. Windt II and Lindsay M. Askins, 3028 Rosewood Drive, $606,500.

GSL Construction, LLC (Roman Slobodzian, member) to Heidi Hennessy and Richard Hennessy, 738 Azalea Lane, $887,400.

Coach'd, LLC to Kathryn Lynn Glickman, 1735 Mundys Landing Road, $379,000.

Matthew Robert Graf Eugenie Ann Graf to Gary Lee Thurman and Patricia Anne Thurman, 345 North Ridge Drive, Midway, $492,000.

Seth William Riggins to Rosa Moreira Larios, 816 Nancy Street, $265,000.

Joni Carlos to Jack D. McKinney and Janice K. McKinney, 4040 Greentree Road, $547,000.

Tabitha Gail Walker and Aaron Glenn Walker to Andrea Elizabeth Clark and Mike Clark, 474 Kuhlman Drive, $375,000.

Falcon Valley Land, LLC to Justin Morris and Katherine Morris, 1590 Shryocks Ferry Road, $62,500.

Clifford J. Rose and Santina I. Rose to Bogdan Svintozelsky, 116 Locust Grove, $265,000.

Marriage Licenses

Caroline Renee Marshall and Jonathan Cai Coburn; Kaylie Ryan Popp and Hunter Brice Stratton; Sara Beth McDade and Michael David Nazworth; Kenzie Brooke Salva and Israel Hernandez; Kathryn Alyse Tucker and Dylan Chase Hollis; Sierra Brooke English and Clay Jeffery Druin; Stephanie Lynn Patterson and Derek Allan Fuss; Alexandra Taylor Todd and Zachary Parker Ott; Ruby Michelle Willis and Brandon Douglas Banfield.



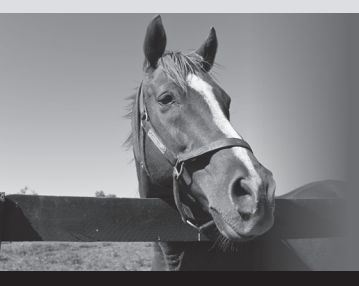
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Sports

WCHS football clinches third straight district title

BY BILL CAINE
WOODFORD SUN SPORTS

After a physical three and a half quarters, Woodford County needed one more play to stop Scott County's comeback. Dennis Johnson put the ball in Darrian Tomlin's hands on a fake punt.

Tomlin raced around the left edge for a touchdown, providing the decisive play in the Yellow Jackets' 44-35 victory Friday, Oct. 16, at Scott County. The win secured Woodford's third consecutive district championship.

The Jackets led by 18 after three quarters before the Cardinals changed the game's course. Scott County made two stops and scored twice, cutting the deficit to three midway through the fourth quarter.

When Woodford's offense appeared headed for another empty possession, Johnson called for the fake. Scott County overloaded the right side in an attempt to block the punt, leaving an opportunity on the left.

"I knew they would overload to the other side and try to block us," Johnson said.

The call depended on securing a block on the tackle to give Tomlin a path outside. Once Tomlin turned the corner, the Jackets had the answer they needed after watching much of their lead disappear.

"It worked out for us and it sealed it," Johnson said.

A punt would have asked Woodford's defense to protect a three-point lead against an offense that had scored on its previous two possessions. Johnson instead trusted the blocking and Tomlin's ability to reach the edge, putting that possession in the hands of his special teams.

Tomlin finished with 51 yards and a touchdown on two carries. His contribution extended beyond the fake punt, as he also recorded 18 tackles.

Woodford's running game featured Aidyn Powell, who carried 16 times for 173 yards and a touchdown. Powell said his job was to trust the blocking in front of him and attack the opening.

"My O-line, you know, I'm just trusting them," Powell said.



JOSIAH McKEE, left, punces on a loose ball with the help of teammate Kade Gilliam. (Photo by Bill Caine)

"I was ready to get through the holes, hit the hole as hard as I can. Try to make a play."

Asked what went through his mind as defenders tried to drag him to the ground, Powell kept his answer focused on finishing the run.

"Just to get to the end zone, you know," Powell said. "Just to score, trying to make a play, get onto the next play, you know?"

For someone watching from the stands, a touchdown ends with the ball crossing the goal line. Asked to describe what that moment feels like to the player carrying it, Powell pointed to the sound of the fans.

"It's the greatest feeling ever," Powell said.

Offensive lineman Justyn Perez said the work of creating those opportunities belonged to the entire group up front.

"It feels good, you know," Perez said. "Not even just me, but my whole line, you know, we're opening holes for running backs."

Perez mentioned Ryan Brown and J.T. Jackson among the backs the linemen work to support, along with Powell and Tomlin. His comments reflected the shared responsibility of a group whose work makes those carries possible.

Perez also took satisfaction in his defensive opportunities.

"It felt fun, you know," Perez said. "It felt fun."

Woodford's success on the ground helped Foxx Coons relax in the pocket. The offensive line gave him time to find his targets, allowing the Jackets to complement their rushing production with four touchdown passes.

Coons completed 13 of 23 passes for 230 yards.

David Jones caught four passes for 89 yards, Omari Jointer had three receptions for 62 yards, Greyson Hodge finished with five catches for 59 yards and Kael Rihtar added two receptions for 57 yards. Each caught a touchdown pass.

On defense, Josiah McKee contributed a sack and recovered a fumble, while Wyatt Peters intercepted a pass, his seventh of the season in eight games.

McKee said preparation included studying Scott County's plays, working through one-on-one situations and "breaking everything down, bit by bit."

That work was intended to help the Jackets recognize what they would face when the teams lined up Friday. McKee described the lift a defense gets from making a fourth-down stop while knowing its own offense is producing points.

"It gets us going because the offense is going," McKee said. "And then every time we do that fourth-down stop, it just breaks down the opponent team every single time."

Scott County challenged Woodford through the air and on the ground.

Quarterback Charlie Ellison completed six of 11 passes for 196 yards and three touchdowns, though reports on Saturday were that Ellison broke his collarbone after a huge hit from McKee. Timmy Emongo, one of the top names for Kentucky's Mr. Football, accounted for three scores, rushing 14 times for 107 yards and two touchdowns and catching three passes for 102 yards and another touchdown.

Skyler Way led the Cardinals' rushing attack with 155 yards on 27 carries. Red Owens caught two passes for 64 yards and a touchdown, and Carson Mullins scored on a 30-yard reception.

Powell averaged 11 yards per carry, gaining 18 more yards than Scott County's leading rusher on 11 fewer attempts. He and Tomlin combined for 224 yards on 18 carries, giving Woodford two scoring threats out of the backfield. Brown and Jackson



DARRIAN TOMLIN stiff-arms Scott County's Timmy Emongo on his way to a fake punt touchdown run. (Photo by Bill Caine)

also provided some pop out of the Woodford backfield as the Jackets showed they can run the ball against a stout defense.

The Cardinals had their own combination of runners, with Way handling the larger workload and Emongo contributing as both a runner and receiver. Emongo finished with 209 yards rushing and receiving, accounting for more than half of Scott County's five touchdowns.

Asher Brewer recorded 12 tackles for Scott County, followed by Carlos Fugate with 11.

Afterward, attention turned to how Woodford would handle the week ahead. With a district championship secured and homecoming approaching, Johnson was asked how he would prevent a letdown.

"They won't let up," Johnson said. "I mean, we're on a mission."

The coach pointed to the team's recent meetings as evidence of its approach.

"We've been having really good meetings," Johnson said.

For Johnson, the next step is to keep the players focused on the work in front of them.

"Take it day by day," Johnson said. "Day by day, do our job."

"I'm excited," Johnson said of his team's outlook ahead.

Perez said the victory added confidence, but it did not change the team's responsibility to keep improving.

"We still gotta work, you know," Perez said. "The job is not over."

Woodford hosts Anderson County for Homecoming Oct. 23.

WCHS girls' soccer wins back-to-back 30th District titles

BY BILL CAINE
WOODFORD SUN SPORTS

The Lady Jackets' soccer team overcame a slow start, a physical opponent and a hostile environment to capture its second consecutive 30th District championship with a 2-0 victory over host Collins on Oct. 15 in Shelbyville.

The championship matchup featured a heated rivalry, yellow cards and an unruly crowd that required police intervention in the stands. Through it all, the Lady Jackets remained composed, scoring twice in the second half to secure the championship and earn another game on their home field.

Woodford had opportunities to take control early, but the Collins defense was prepared for the Lady Jackets' offensive attack. The Titans cleared a corner kick from Abby Lowe before stopping a hard shot into the box from Sacoyia Garcia following a pass from Afton Hall.

As the first half progressed, the game grew more physical. Woodford continued to push the ball into scoring position, but Collins turned away each opportunity. The teams entered halftime tied 0-0, leaving Woodford coach Brandon Cummons searching for answers.

"It was a frustrating game. I'm not going to lie," Cummons said. "They were doing just enough to knock balls away from us, and we couldn't really get anything going."

Cummons challenged his team at halftime to be more aggressive in creating scoring opportunities and forcing Collins defenders into difficult situations.

"I challenged them at halftime," Cummons said. "We weren't drawing enough fouls, we weren't getting by them, and we weren't creating enough chances."

The intensity continued into the second half, with yellow cards issued for rough play. Woodford kept pressure on the Collins defense but struggled to break through, despite controlling possession and creating chances around the penalty area.

Meanwhile, emotions continued to rise around the stadium. The atmosphere added another challenge for the Lady Jackets as the championship remained scoreless.

The breakthrough finally came midway through the second half when Garcia was taken down inside the penalty area, giving Woodford a penalty kick. It was the fourth time during the contest that a Collins defender had knocked Garcia down.

Lowe converted the penalty kick, breaking the scoreless tie and sending the Woodford supporters into celebration.

"I thought Sacoyia (Garcia) did a fantastic job. Abby (Lowe) did a fantastic job of getting those opportunities for us in the second half, and it paid off," Cummons said. "I thought the penalty kick was rightfully deserved with everything that was going on. They were clipping our heels."



THE LADY JACKETS soccer team celebrated back-to-back district titles with a 2-0 win over Collins Oct. 15 in Shelbyville. (Photo by Bill Caine)

The goal changed the complexion of the game. With Collins now forced to push forward, Woodford kept up the offensive pressure rather than settling into a defensive position to protect its one-goal advantage.

"Relief. Just seeing the ball hit the back of the net," Cummons said. "You could kind of see it deflate their side a bit, and they started to panic. Then we just put our foot on the gas."

Moments later, Annastyn McIntosh delivered the finishing blow, scoring Woodford's second goal to extend the lead to 2-0 and quiet the vocal Collins student section.

McIntosh said the goal brought overwhelming relief after watching her team spend much of the game searching for a breakthrough.

"We had chances the whole half," McIntosh said. "We possessed it the whole game, and we just needed one to go in. When that finally happened, I felt like I could breathe."

Cummons believed his team needed only one goal to take control of the championship, particularly with the way his defense had limited Collins throughout the contest.

"We knew one would do it," Cummons said. "They weren't creating much against us, and I knew if we could just get one, it was over. I felt like they were playing for penalty kicks."

With the two-goal advantage, Woodford controlled possession in the closing minutes, moving the ball around the field and preventing Collins from mounting a comeback. The final whistle set off another celebration for the Lady Jackets, who had successfully defended their district championship.

McIntosh's performance over the tournament earned her 30th District Tournament Most Valuable Player honors, adding an individual accomplishment to the team's championship celebration. Annabel Lewis, Garcia and Anna Dorough were also named to the All-Tournament Team.

"Annastyn did fantastic over the last two games," Cummons said. "That's why she earned that MVP. Very, very proud of her."

For McIntosh, hearing her name announced as tournament MVP was another memorable moment in an already emotional evening.

"I was over the moon," McIntosh said. "I was so excited and proud of myself and all the work I put in."

Throughout the season, Cummons has emphasized the importance of playing a difficult schedule to prepare his team for postseason competition. That preparation appeared to pay off against Collins, as Woodford handled the physical challenge, a difficult road atmosphere and the pressure of a championship game.

The victory also carries another reward. As district champions, the Lady Jackets earned the chance to host a first-round game in the 8th Region Tournament, giving their seniors another home-field appearance.

"Getting that one last home game for our seniors was something I really wanted us to do," McIntosh said. "Being able to play there one more time as a junior is really special."

Lady Jackets shut out Walton-Verona in regional quarterfinals

BY BILL CAINE
WOODFORD SUN SPORTS

The Woodford County High School girls' soccer team advanced to the 8th Region semifinals with a 4-0 victory over Walton-Verona in the regional quarterfinals Oct. 20 at Community Stadium.

Addison Cummons opened the scoring for the Lady Jackets with a booming shot that sailed past the Walton-Verona goalkeeper to give Woodford County a 1-0 lead.

Woodford County coach Brandon Cummons said the early goal helped settle his team into the match.

"It was an absolute beauty of a shot," Cummons said. "That goalie is tough. She has 14 shutouts on the year, and she doesn't get beat very much like that. It was the most perfectly placed shot. Great start to the game, and I really think it just relaxed everybody."

Just one minute later, Bailey Green connected on a header off a corner kick from Abby Lowe, sending the ball into the back of the net to extend the lead to 2-0.

Woodford County continued its offensive success in the second half as Sacoyia Garcia scored early to push the lead to 3-0.



AFTON HALL moves the ball upfield during Woodford's regional win over Walton-Verona. (Photo by Bill Caine)

Lowe capped the scoring with a corner kick that curled around the Walton-Verona goalkeeper and into the net, giving the Lady Jackets their fourth goal of the match.

Cummons credited his team's defensive effort, which limited Walton-Verona's scoring opportunities throughout the match.

"I wish we could have put in a few more, but two in the first and two in the second," Cummons said. "I don't think they really had a good shot on goal, maybe two shots on goal. That's been our forte the last few games. Not just shutouts, but limiting their shots."

The victory also marked an emotional moment for the Lady Jackets as they played their final home match of the season.

"It was a good result," Cummons said. "It's our last home game, win or lose, so pretty emotional, pretty special. Super-happy for how they played and competed, and glad we got the win."

With the victory, Woodford County advances to face North Oldham in the 8th Region semifinals Oct. 21 at Grant County High School.

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Woodford rallies past Collins to reach district title game

BY BILL CAINE
WOODFORD SUN SPORTS

With its season on the line, the Lady Jackets' volleyball team found the response coach Meghan Bottom had been waiting for.

The Lady Jackets erased a two-set deficit against Collins Oct. 20, fighting back for a 24-26, 21-25, 25-23, 25-23, 15-8 come-from-behind victory to advance to the 30th District volleyball championship game.

"That's what I've been looking for all season: for them to have that last push to fight back, and they did," Bottom said.

Woodford had to survive two tight sets to force a fifth, including a fourth-set comeback from a 21-16 deficit. Once there, the Lady Jackets seized control and finished the rally with an ace from Amelia Miller.

Lucy Culbertson said the comeback reflected the team's ability to stay together through the pressure.

"Emotions were really high, the intensity was really high," Culbertson said. "The fact that everybody pulled together, as a team, really just shows what we're about."

Woodford showed its strength at the net early in the opening set. Crisp passing and finishes from Culbertson, Lorelai Johns and Scarlett Dabney helped the Lady Jackets build an 11-7 lead.

Woodford still led 22-19 before Collins began closing the gap. Dabney forced a sideout to give the Lady Jackets a two-point cushion, but the Lady Titans rallied to tie the set at 23.

Dabney placed a ball deep for a point before serving long on the next play. Collins then blocked a Johns' kill attempt, and a Woodford attack went wide to give the Lady Titans the opening set, 26-24.

Caroline Gribble's serving helped Woodford jump ahead in the second set. When Collins cut the lead to 6-4, Culbertson answered with a kill to regain serve. Her serving later helped stretch the advantage to 11-5.

Collins again responded, moving ahead 13-12 before Woodford forced a sideout to tie it. Culbertson delivered another tying kill at 16-16, but several balls hit long helped Collins establish a 21-18 lead. The Lady Titans finished the set 25-21, leaving Woodford one set from elimination.

The Lady Jackets responded with a 7-1 start in the third.

Johns, Gribble and Culbertson supplied strong play at the net, but Collins continued extending rallies and working back into contention. The Lady Titans cut Woodford's lead to 14-11 and eventually tied it at 16.

Woodford answered with three consecutive points, a run highlighted by a Dabney ace. Culbertson scored back-to-back points at the net, and Johns added a kill as the Lady Jackets moved toward set point.

Collins refused to go quietly. The Lady Titans pulled within 24-22, prompting a Woodford timeout, then scored again to make it a one-point set. An errant Collins hit finally gave Woodford a 25-23 win and extended the match.

The fourth set required another escape.

Woodford trailed 15-11 when Bottom called a timeout, then faced a 21-16 deficit before using another timeout to regroup.

Back-to-back aces from Addie Bryant helped cut the deficit to two before her next serve found the net. Culbertson later forced a sideout to bring Woodford within 22-21.

Two Collins miss-hits helped Woodford move ahead 24-23, and Dabney delivered an ace to clinch another 25-23 victory.

The match was even, and the Lady Jackets had given themselves a fresh opportunity.

"It was anybody's game at that point," Bottom said. "So might as well put it all on the line."



WCHS VOLLEYBALL celebrated its seniors Oct. 14. Pictured from left are, back row, Lydia Sumner, Caroline Gribble, Lorelai Johns, Kenley Greer and Amelia Miller; front row, Mary Groves, Olivia Bradley, Addie Bryant, Layla Aubrey and Lexi Zuber. (Photo by Abigail Caine)

Woodford opened the deciding set with three straight points. Dabney's touch shot extended the lead to 6-2 before Collins rallied to within 6-5.

Gribble scored to regain serve, and a Johns block and Dabney ace helped Woodford build a 9-5 advantage.

This time, the Lady Jackets kept pushing.

Culbertson drilled a ball down the line for an 11-8 lead, Johns followed with a kill and Miller served an ace to stretch the margin to five. Dabney's next kill brought Woodford to match point.

Miller finished it with another ace, sealing the fifth set 15-8 and sending the Lady Jackets into the district final.

"Collins is a great team," Bottom said. "I mean, they really are solid, and they play with a lot of effort."

For Woodford, the difference came in finding answers while there was still time to respond.

"Our team did a really good job of talking about everything that we did well and that we didn't do well," Culbertson said. "And then we fixed it when we went back out there."

WCHS boys' soccer falls to Collins in district title game

BY BILL CAINE
WOODFORD SUN SPORTS

Woodford County's boys' soccer season came to an end Monday night with a loss to North Oldham in the 8th Region semifinals. The Yellow Jackets reached the regional tournament after finishing as runners-up in the district tournament.

Woodford County High School fell to Collins 3-0 in the 30th District boys' soccer championship Oct. 15 in Shelbyville.

Woodford County High School fell to Collins 3-0 in the 30th District boys' soccer championship Oct. 15 in Shelbyville. The Titans built a two-goal halftime lead before adding a third goal four minutes into the second half. Woodford was unable to answer after scoring four goals against Shelby County in the semifinals.

For Woodford coach Fonyam Atanga, the message afterward focused on keeping the result in perspective as more soccer lies ahead.

"It's one game in the grand scheme of things," Atanga said.

The defeat denied the Yellow Jackets another district championship, something Atanga hoped his players would appreciate as they moved forward.

"I think when you win something a lot, you tend to appreciate it maybe not as much," he said.

Collins established control early. Vladimir Garcia headed in a corner kick three minutes into the game, putting Woodford behind before the Yellow Jackets could settle into the opening half.

The Titans continued to push forward, keeping Woodford on its heels through the first 20 minutes. Goalkeeper Drake Godman was busy throughout the half, making several leaping stops as Collins continued to create chances.

Hayden Collers made it 2-0 with 10 minutes remaining before halftime.

Woodford found some opportunities after Eli Shelby checked in for Jeronimo Pardo. Shelby sent two balls into the box to give the Yellow Jackets chances, but neither produced a goal, and Collins carried its two-goal advantage into the break.

The Titans added to that lead shortly after play resumed. A counterattack four minutes into the second half ended with Ryder Harris scoring to make it 3-0.

The game grew physical as the half continued, with multiple yellow cards handed out for hard tackles.

Woodford had a chance off a corner kick when Chili Seitz connected with a header, but the attempt did not find the net.

Asked about making adjustments against the Titans, Atanga said options become limited this late in the season, when a team's personnel, strengths and weaknesses are established.

"There's very little you can do at this time of the season to make adjustments," he said.

Injuries and illness also affected Woodford's lineup.

Those absences required Woodford to move players around, adding another challenge against Collins. Still, Atanga said the available lineup was strong enough to perform better and declined to place the result on the missing players.

"It showed a little bit today, but I never use those things as excuses," Atanga said.

Woodford reached the title game with a 4-0 victory over Shelby County Oct. 14, getting two goals apiece from Seitz and Hudson Deaton.

Before the Yellow Jackets took control on the scoreboard, Godman made two saves to keep the Rockets from taking the lead.

Shelby County created a chance off a corner kick, but Godman stopped it to keep the game scoreless. Moments later, he made a leaping save to halt a Rockets counterattack.

Woodford remained scoreless until Seitz broke through with a minute left in the first half, giving the Yellow Jackets a 1-0 halftime lead.

Atanga said the opening half reflected the pressure of an elimination game and his team's limited experience in those situations.

"That first half was a clear indication that we just haven't had enough guys being in this situation," Atanga said. "And we could tell the nerves got the better of them."

Seitz's late goal helped Woodford relax, Atanga said, and the coaching staff used halftime to encourage the players to settle down and trust themselves.

The Yellow Jackets responded with three goals after the break. Deaton scored twice, and Seitz added his second goal to complete the scoring.

Afterward, Atanga looked ahead to another meeting with Collins, which had previously defeated Woodford in a shootout. He said that earlier result had left him wanting another opportunity against the Titans.

"All I could say was, 'I want to try it again,'" Atanga said.

Atanga welcomed the chance to play for a championship and described the postseason as the time his team had spent the summer preparing to reach.

"There's nothing better to me than this time of year," he said. "We're here now, and we just gotta take care of business."

Look for a season recap in the coming weeks.

WCHS cross country honors seniors at WCI

BY BILL CAINE
WOODFORD SUN SPORTS

Woodford County High School turned in a strong showing at Saturday's Woodford County Invitational cross country meet Oct. 17, with the girls finishing runner-up and the boys earning fourth place on their home course. The Jackets also celebrated its seniors after the races.

The Lady Yellow Jackets were led by Penny Oxnard, who finished fourth overall with a time of 21 minutes, 10.48 seconds. Oxnard's performance highlighted a strong team showing, with five Woodford County girls finishing among the top-25 runners.

Jacey Lyddane was the second Woodford County runner across the line, placing 15th in 22:58.88. Lucy Danks followed in 21st place with a time of 23:56.36.

Genevieve Cox finished 24th in 24:24.83, while Ashlyn Dearinger rounded out the team's five scoring runners with a 25th-place finish in 24:34.63. The five combined for 78 team points.

Allie Twehues was close behind in 26th place with a time of 24:46.96, giving Woodford County three consecutive finishers.

Lillian Valentine placed 34th in 25:45.08, followed by Ava Jones in 38th at 26:05.38 and Juliana Christensen in 40th at 26:23.63. Madison Cabell completed the Lady Yellow Jackets' lineup, finishing 54th in 28:55.80.

On the boys' side, Woodford County secured a fourth-place team finish behind a strong performance from Gavyn Burns, who led the Yellow Jackets with a 22nd-place finish in 19:45.83.

Liam Muniz followed in 26th place, clocking 20:04.87, while Andrew Wellman finished 37th in 20:42.82.

Julian Muniz was the fourth Woodford County runner across the line, placing 50th in 21:25.66. Paxton Magruder completed the team's scoring five with a 52nd-place finish in 21:34.33. The five combined for 105 team points.

Adrian Bowers finished 57th in 22:18.63, followed by Sam Magruder in 77th with a time of 24:25.05.

Link Christensen placed 90th in 28:32.57, Thomas Young finished 91st in 29:44.66 and Gerrit Hall took 92nd in 29:53.52. Jake Crain rounded out the boys' lineup, finishing 94th in 31:55.10.

The cross country teams will compete at the KHSAA regional meet Saturday, Oct. 24 in Georgetown with state bids on the line.

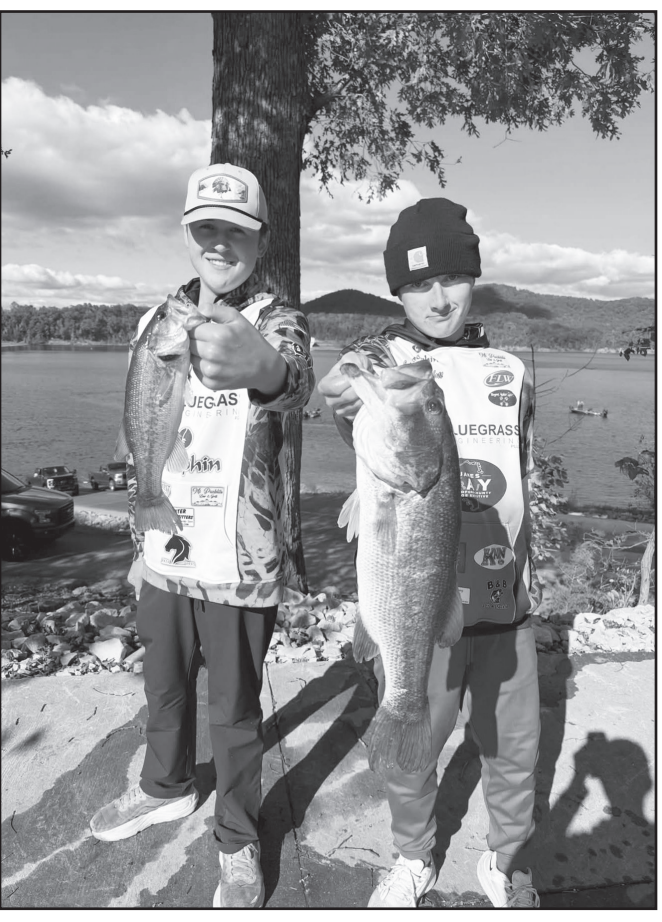


WCHS CROSS COUNTRY celebrated its seniors after the varsity races at the Woodford County Invitational Oct. 17. Pictured from left are coach Ashley Swingle, Madison Cabell, Jacey Lyddane, Jake Crain and coach Adam Swingle. Not pictured is senior Nate Gresham. (Photo by Bill Caine)



WCHS BOYS SOCCER took home the district runner-up trophy after a 3-0 loss to Collins Oct. 15 in Shelbyville. (Photo by Bill Caine)

Bass Jackets season off to great start



HUNTER GAYHEART, left, and John Nathan Abbott placed second at Cave Run Lake with a six pound catch. (Photo submitted)

BY BILL CAINE
WOODFORD SUN SPORTS

The Bass Jackets have had a busy two weeks in the boat as several boats entered the Bradley Roy tournament on Kentucky Bass Nation State Trail Saturday, Oct. 10.

The team battled windy and rainy conditions, as three teams competed in the season-opening tournament.

Competing against a field of 158 boats, Jed Butler and Jameson Ray led Woodford County with a 28th place finish, catching two fish weighing a combined 3.74 pounds.

Sam Pitzer and Cruz Westlund-Gonzalez finished 51st with one fish weighing 2.02 pounds, while John Nathan Abbott and Hunter Gayheart placed 56th with one fish weighing 1.89 pounds.

Despite the challenging weather, all three Woodford County teams brought fish to the scales in the first of seven tournaments on the state trail schedule.

This past weekend, Abbott and Gayheart placed second at Cave Run Lake Oct. 17 with a total of 6.11 pounds.



JJ ESCALONI strip-sacked Ryle's quarterback during the WCMS 8th grade football 22-0 win in the playoffs over Ryle Oct. 17 in Versailles. (Photo by Bill Caine)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Open Position
Part-time Custodian

The Woodford County Fiscal Court is currently accepting applications for the position of Woodford County Custodian. This part-time, second shift (working hours TBD) position is under the supervision of the County Maintenance Supervisor, this position is responsible for keeping the Courthouse, Jack Jouett House and Court House Annex offices, hallways and exterior clean and other duties as assigned. Background and drug testing required.

The successful applicant must have a high school diploma/GED combined with 6-12 months related experience or equivalent combination of education and experience.

A more detailed job description and application can be obtained online at https://woodfordcountyky.gov or Woodford County Human Resources Manager, 103 South Main Street, Room 203, Versailles, KY 40383.

Email applications can be submitted to
ttipton@woodfordcountyky.gov
Applications will be accepted through
Friday, October 30, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Woodford County is an Equal Opportunity Employer
10.22.2t

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
WOODFORD COUNTY FISCAL COURT

(Title and Summary)

ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE WOODFORD COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF THE COUNTY OF WOODFORD, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY that Woodford Fiscal Court hereby determines it is in the best interests of the County to use its statutory authority granted to create the Woodford County Code Enforcement Board, as follows:

SECTION 1. Definitions

A. Code Enforcement Board.
B. Code Enforcement Officer.
C. Imminent danger.
D. Abatement costs.
E. Final order.
F. Owner.
G. Premises.

SECTION 2. Creation and Membership -- The Code Enforcement Board shall be composed of five (5) members, and two (2) alternate members, all of whom shall be residents of Woodford County for a period of at least one (1) year prior to the creation of the board, and who shall reside in Woodford County throughout their term of office.

SECTION 3. Enforcement Powers

A. The code enforcement board shall have the power to issue remedial orders and impose civil fines as a method of enforcing county ordinances when a violation of the ordinance has been classified as a civil offense.
B. The code enforcement board shall not have the authority to enforce any ordinance regulating conduct which would also, under any provision of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, constitute a criminal offense.

SECTION 4. Appointment of members; term of office; removal from office; and oath

A. Appointment of Members.
B. Term of Office.
C. Board Vacancy.
D. Removal of Board Member.
E. Oath of Office.

SECTION 5. Organization of board; meetings; quorum

A. Chair & Vice-Chair.
B. Meetings.
C. Kentucky Open Meetings Act.
D. Quorum Required for Action.
E. Minutes.

SECTION 6. Conflict of Interest

SECTION 7. Powers of the Code Enforcement Board

A. To adopt rules and regulations.
B. To conduct hearings.
C. Subpoena power.
D. To take testimony under oath.
E. To make findings of fact and issue necessary orders.
F. To impose civil fines.

SECTION 8. Enforcement Proceedings

Enforcement proceedings shall only be initiated by the issuance of a citation by a code enforcement officer.

SECTION 9. Hearing; Notice; and Final Order

A. Hearing.
B. Notice.
C. Failure to Appear.
D. Testimony.
E. Board Determination.
F. Final Order.

SECTION 10. Presentation of Cases

SECTION 11. Appeals; Final Judgement

SECTION 12. Ordinance Fine Schedule - Violations of ordinances that are enforced by the county code enforcement board shall be subject to the schedule of fines indicated in each ordinance. If no penalty is indicated, the fine schedule shall be a maximum penalty as follows:

Violation	1st Offense	2nd Offense	All Others
Violation Penalty Listed	$100.00	$250.00	$500.00

When a third citation for a violation a county ordinance has been issued as part of the same case, and the property remains in violation, the Code Official shall bring the property before the Code Enforcement Board to request authorization to issue a per-day fine citation. The fine shall not exceed the maximum authorized by ordinance per violation per day, and the timeframe shall not exceed thirty (30) days.

SECTION 13. Liens; Fines; Charges; Fees

The county shall possess a lien on property owned by the person found by a non-appealable final order or by a final judgment of the court to have committed a violation of a county ordinance.

SECTION 14. Lienholder Notification System

SECTION 15. Liens

SECTION 16. Immediate Action - Nothing in this ordinance shall prohibit the county from taking immediate action to remedy a violation of its ordinances when there is reason to believe that the violation presents a serious threat to the public health, safety, and welfare, or if in the absence of immediate action, the effects of the violation will be irreparable or irreversible.

SECTION 17. Severability Clause

The first reading of the above ordinance was held on October 13, 2026, and the second reading will be held on November 10, 2026, at the regular meeting of the Woodford Fiscal Court at 5:30 p.m., or shortly thereafter, in the Fiscal Court Meeting Room, Second Floor, Woodford County Courthouse, Versailles, Kentucky. A full and complete copy of this ordinance is available for public inspection, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., in the Woodford County Judge/Executive's Office, Second Floor, Woodford County Courthouse, Versailles, Kentucky, or online at www.woodfordcountyky.gov.
10.22.1t

VERSAILLES-MIDWAY-WOODFORD COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Public Hearing Notice for November 2, 2026, at 6:30 PM EST (5:30 PM CST), Woodford County Courthouse, 103 S. Main St., Versailles, KY:

1. Matthew Searcy has filed a Variance Application on a tract of land containing 0.365ac located at 2405 Lillards Ferry Rd. The property is zoned CO-1. The Applicant proposes the construction of an Accessory Structure.

Applications and Plans are available for review at the Planning Commission Office, 103 S. Main St., Suite 204, Versailles, KY. (859) 873-8611. 10.22.1t

LEGAL NOTICE

Horse auction will be held at 9:00 a.m. on November 5, 2026, at Double D Ranch, LLC, located at 2762 Huntertown Road, Versailles, KY 40383, to satisfy an unpaid debt owed by Chandler Marks for the care of the following horse: a 2022 gelding by Sir William Robert out of Local Woman. The amount owed is $5,844.47 as of October 15, 2026. 10.22.1t

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* Source 1: Legislative Research Commission, 2025 Vote History for House Bill 775
† Source 2: Legislative Research Commission, 2026 Vote History for House Bill 567
‡ Source 3: Legislative Research Commission, 2024 Vote History for House Bill 2



WOODFORD COUNTY WOMAN'S CLUB are shown at the Food Pantry for Woodford County on Sept. 26. From left, Judy Tinsley, Sarah McKay, Debbie Sexton, Monica Lower, Dedre Van Hoose, and (partially obscured) Jane Pictor. (Photo submitted)

The Woodford County Woman's Club – the backbone of a community for over 100 years

By Evie House
WCHS student journalist

Try to imagine a potluck without a Southern mama making the potato salad, an event without a panel of ladies organizing the seating, or a community without women stepping forward whenever there is work to be done.

Women are, and have always been, the backbone of our community in a way that is irreplaceable and invaluable. But as Woodford County has changed, so have the ways its women have shown up.

Thousands of women have come through the halls of Woodford County High School or walked the streets of Versailles and gone on to achieve tremendous success.

Women have never before been so free to choose what they want their lives to look like, yet they continue to pour themselves into their communities through charity work, school events, churches, clubs and contributions that rarely make headlines.

Many of our community's quiet changemakers can be found as members of the Woodford County Woman's Club.

Established as the "Wednesday Club" in 1894, its members initially focused on arts, culture and literature. In 1920, the club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs and became more community-driven. More than a century later, that mission continues to evolve alongside Woodford County.

Club historians Judy Tinsley and Sarah McKay, JoAnn Gormley, a member for more than 50 years, and club President Debbie Sexton recently shared how the club has long impacted Woodford County. These four women have collectively dedicated decades to their community.

Today, the club has about 35 members, compared to 116 in 1920. Sexton calculated that if today's participation were proportional to the county's population back then, the club would have more than 600 members. At first glance, the difference seems to tell a story of women becoming less involved. But the women at that table tell a different story.

"These were ladies that did not work outside the home," Sexton explained. "It's a challenge to be a modern woman and be involved in the community."

The challenge is not that women care less; it is that women are carrying more.

Gormley's work with Coats and Shoes for Kids provides children in the county with a new winter coat and a pair of shoes. This year, that means 200 students. She remembers when the project began with shoes alone and expanded to include coats. Supporting it eventually meant learning to write grants and navigate the process of becoming an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

"I can remember summers," she said, recalling the hours spent writing grants while her daughter took tennis lessons. "You might put in 40 hours a week."

The work may have changed, but the willingness to do it has not.

Today, the organizations the club supports include GreenHouse17, Natalie's Sisters and it is developing campus safety kits containing personal alarms, door alarms, whistles and drink covers.

"The world's harsher," Sexton said. "And there are a lot more challenges."

Perhaps that explains why the club has survived for more than a century: it preserves its purpose while changing with the world around it.

However, the club's impact extends beyond the people receiving coats, shoes or safety kits. There is another kind of work happening, and it may be the easiest to overlook.

McKay moved to Woodford County from Florida about a year ago, knowing almost no one. Then someone invited her to the Woman's Club.

"I've been welcomed with open arms," she said. "Now I'm Sarah with lots of friends."

For McKay, joining the club meant more than finding a volunteer opportunity. It meant finding somewhere to belong.

Gormley, too, once felt like a wallflower at Woodford County gatherings because her husband knew everyone and she knew no one. Her response was not to shrink, but to become involved. Sexton moved across the country and did the same. Perhaps that is the work women have always done here: building community by helping build it for someone else.

Gormley said she could call any woman in the club, even at three in the morning, and that woman would be willing to listen and become involved in a project.

"It's a sisterhood," McKay added.

Maybe that is what the Woodford County Woman's Club reveals about the community itself. It is not defined by one profession, one generation or one way of getting involved. Its members are teachers and mothers, retirees and newcomers, women who write grants at children's tennis lessons and women who show up when someone needs to be heard.

Their lives, responsibilities and community's challenges have changed.

But they keep showing up.

Women were once noticed for what they accomplished, but perhaps they should also be noticed for what they make possible: the child with a warm coat, the newcomer who finds a friend or the community with someone willing to answer the phone at three in the morning.

Because maybe being the backbone of a community isn't about standing at the center of it.

Maybe it's about being the person who keeps showing up.

Editor's Note: This story is the product of the school system's "Portrait of a Learner" partnership between the Sun and WCHS teacher Renee Boss' journalism class, in which the Sun works with students to write and publish news stories.

A&W Restaurants Chairman Kevin Bazner, joins Midway University Board of Trustees

Special to the *Sun*

Kevin Bazner, chairman and CEO of A&W Restaurants, Inc., has joined Midway University's Board of Trustees.

Bazner is a 50-plus-year veteran of the restaurant industry and has spent 29 years with A&W Restaurants. In 1988, he took over the company's International Division, based in Malaysia. He served as managing director of A&W International until 2000, when he was named president and COO, a role he held until Yum! Brands acquired the company in 2003.

Following the acquisition, Bazner remained active in the franchising industry as a consultant and investor, and later served as president and COO of Smoothie King Corp. He returned to A&W as president and CEO in October 2011, when the brand was purchased from Yum! Brands by a partnership of international and domestic A&W franchise partners. In 2024, he became chairman.

"Kevin has spent his career finding new ways to grow and reinvent an iconic brand, from expanding it internationally to leading the partnership that brought it back under independent ownership," said Donna Campbell '62, chair of the Midway University Board of Trustees. "That kind of innovative, entrepreneurial thinking is exactly what we want our students exposed to in the classroom. We are honored to welcome him to the board."

Bazner's appointment comes as Midway University continues to grow the James C. Bowling School of Business and expand its degree programs in accounting, finance, business and entrepreneurship.

"Midway University is doing important work preparing the next generation of business leaders for the careers of the future," Bazner said. "Building a business, whether it's a global brand or a new venture, takes sound business acumen, adaptability and a willingness to take smart risks. I look forward to serving on the Midway board as the university continues to grow."



Kevin Bazner

Midway University welcomes Bazner's appointment as part of its ongoing commitment to strengthen board leadership with individuals who bring diverse professional expertise and a deep connection to the Central Kentucky community.

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