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Vol. 21, No. 51

Thursday, October 19, 2023

12 pages



Another successful Downtown Days is in the books



Top photo, Kentucky Headhunters entertained a filled downtown square during Saturday night's performance. (Center) Karma Miller enjoyed the face painting at the Community Voice booth, with artwork by JaCinda Warner. Bottom, a car show is always a popular event at Downtown Days.

While Mother Nature released a few raindrops here and there over the weekend, Downtown Days never stalled and the 2023 version of the annual event will go down in history as a huge success.

The featured band during Saturday night noticed the great turnout for the event, despite the cool temperatures.

"We don't think you could've put one more person on the square!" the Kentucky Headhunters wrote on their social media page. "We appreciate each and every one of y'all that braved the chilly weather and had a good time with us!"

The square was jammed packed for the concert and held a steady crowd Friday night and all day Saturday.

Jada Atwood, a member of the committee that coordinates the event, said she wouldn't call it a record-breaking crowd, but it was definitely as fine a turnout as they have ever seen.

Adding a second stage helped keep the crowd spread out more than in past years, and Atwood said vendors seemed to appreciate the improved flow this year. They did have a record number of vendors, she added.

There were fewer vehicles for the car show, but just by a small number, Atwood said, and that happened after some car show participants ended their trips when it rained as

they headed to Columbia.

A new 5k run sponsored by Columbia Pharmacy to benefit J.O.Y. Ministries was a huge success, with 82 runners participating.

"Columbia and surrounding areas really showed up with great support for J.O.Y.," said Matt Jackson, one of the organizers.

Community Voice followers on social media had a lot to say about their favorite part of the weekend. The Kentucky Headhunters drew plenty of fans, but so did County Wide Band on Saturday night and Friday night's performances by the Lindsey Family and the Green River Band.

The food trucks also got their share of shout-outs as well as scheduled events such as the mullet contest and car show. For others, it was just impossible to pick one thing.

"Love all of it! But to be honest, I love the clothes shopping," wrote Bethany Little.

Mary Turner Gilliam agreed. "Honestly, all of it. Loved the entertainment, food and looking at all stuff they sold there," she wrote.

The committee who puts in all the hard work behind the festival includes Atwood, Tiffany Collins, Chasity Yarberry, Gina Baker, Lindsay Breeding and Annette Hatcher.

By Sharon Burton
snburton@adairvoice.com

County to host waste collection projects

The Adair County Fiscal Court has been awarded grant funds from the Kentucky Division of Waste Management to host an electronic waste (e-scrap) event on Nov. 13 through Nov. 17.

Bins will be set out at the Adair County Recycling, located off Campbellsville St. on Service Rd.

Solid waste coordinator Bridget Compton said they work with a reputable company that will destroy hard drives so owners do

not have to worry about secure information being obtained by others. Acceptable items include computers and monitors, cameras, printers, scanners, copiers, fax machines, servers, cell phones, shredders, televisions, media players, speakers, cable boxes, telephones, power supplies, video game equipment, circuit boards, media tape and disks, hard drives, routers, hubs

See COUNTY, page 2

EDA plans further development, growth

Sometimes, it's the little things that make a big difference, and the Columbia-Adair Economic Development Authority continues to look at ideas of all sizes that could help them land new jobs for the community.

The board met for two hours Tuesday morning, with discussions ranging from where to go next once the Green River Commerce Park is full to improving letterhead and providing a better

first impression at the Chamber of Commerce building.

EDA has successfully worked with two entities, Pennyroyal Barrel Co. and Phillips Tank & Structure, both of which have announced plans to build in the commerce park. A letter of intent has been signed for a separate lot. Last week, officials met with a company from South

See EDA, page 2



Cecelia Bunch (left) and Ashley Hardwick visit in one of their counseling rooms to discuss the best treatment for their clients. Serenity Counseling is one of the organizations in the opioid abatement fund that awarded a group of women with \$355,615 in aid to help those in need.

Turning Words Into Action A beacon of hope in the battle against addiction

Five lifelong friends in Columbia have decided to make some change to their community by providing a new pathway for people with opioid and substance abuse disorders. With their existing programs and a grant given through funds from opioid settlements, these women are creating a campus that will provide a space for support and treatment for those in need.

The group of women have

known one another most of their lives. Ashley Hardwick and Cecelia Bunch own and operate Serenity Counseling Services in Columbia. Susan "Netty" Grider and her staff operate Blessed Billing Credentialing and Consulting. Both Crystal Stapleton and Shelby Smith help in the billing and counseling services but will soon oversee more facilities in January of 2024.

Located on the Hwy. 55 north of Columbia is a site

being prepared for a complete campus for Serenity Counseling with its sober living complexes. Blessed Billing offices and a recently announced Coffee Hut and a print shop will also be placed there. The campus will provide housing, treatment and an income for individuals enrolled in the opioid and substance abuse program.

The women already had

See TURNING, page 12



Heather Spoon made a presentation to Bobby Morrison, who just recently ended his term as chairman of the Economic Development Authority board of directors. Morrison recruited Spoon, who now serves as a consultant for EDA, to help with EDA's recruitment efforts. Morrison remains on the board.

EDA plans further development, growth

FROM PAGE 1

Korea, and they continue to get referrals from state economic development officials.

As they continue to hone their skills at recruitment and filling the commerce park, they are also developing long-term initiatives. The board voted to get a quote from MSE of Kentucky, an engineering and architectural firm that has worked with the board on developing the park, on the cost to complete all the infrastructure needed at the park. They will also get a quote on the cost to take commercial-scale utilities across the bypass on Burkesville Rd.

The quotes will help the board as it makes plans to develop a Tax Increment Financing Structure (TIF), which would tax new businesses in the commerce park that would be used sole-

ly for infrastructure purposes by EDA.

The board also heard updates on a build-ready pad project, which is ready to begin at the commerce park, and the need to move a cemetery from the park. Board members were denied permission by the fiscal court to move the cemetery and they made plans to return to the court to further explain the need for the project.

The board briefly discussed the need for a new logo and considered the need of renovating the board room and front office in the building they share with the Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Commission. Any action would require approval of all three boards.

Consultant Heather Spoon presented a keepsake to Bobby Morrison, whose term as chairman of the board recently ended. Spoon became

involved with EDA at the urging of Morrison, and Morrison often tells the story of their original conversation that took place as he made repairs to her pool.

"He loves this community, and he's done so much out at the park," Spoon said.

The board also gave honor to former member Chester Taylor, who died this past week. The board voted to buy Gideon Bibles in Taylor's honor.

The board went into executive session to talk about the visit they had last week.

Board members present were chairman Larry Walker, Doyle Lloyd, Bobby Morrison, Richard Grant, Kenzie Rowe, and Mark Dykes, as well as County Judge Executive Larry Russell Bryant.

By Sharon Burton
snburton@adairvoice.com

2023 ACHS homecoming winners



Photo by Andrea Feese

The Adair County homecoming ceremony was held at the halftime of the Adair versus Butler game Friday night and the homecoming winning court was chosen.

The title of homecoming queen (center) went to Madison Irvin, representing FFA. She is the 17-year-old daughter of Marty and Kristi Irvin. She was escorted by Bode Richards, the 17-year-old son of Jamie and Sharon Richard.

The runner-up position was earned by FBLA (right) representative Caylin Coffman, the 17-year-old daughter of Traci and Greg Coffman. She was escorted by 17-year-old Brody Blair, son of Brett and Jennifer Blair.

In third place (left) representing HOSA is Ada Gass, the 17-year-old daughter of Andy and Chenoa Gass. She was escorted by 17-year-old Lakota Lemmon, son of Missy and Larry Lemmon.

County to host waste collection projects

FROM PAGE 1

and modems.

A household hazardous waste collection event has also been scheduled. It will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 8 a.m. through noon at the county road department, 62 Service Rd.

Acceptable items include aerosol cans, antifreeze, batteries, cor-

rosive/flammables such as fuel and kerosene, used motor oil, gasoline, paint, pesticides (two gallon or two pounds per vehicle), insecticides, propane tanks (20-pound limit), bulbs (CFL bulbs, 4 ft. and 8 ft. tubes), pool chemicals, bleach, drain cleaners, fire extinguishers, mercury, roofing tar, driveway sealant, moth balls, household cleaners,

floor cleaners, ammonia and metal polish.

Items not accepted include appliances, fertilizers, medications, tires, explosives, electronic waste, ammunition, fireworks, smoke detectors, asbestos and trash.

For more information, contact Compton at 270-384-4703.



WHO WILL REPRESENT YOUR VALUES?



Andy Beshear (D)

Kentucky Governor's Race

The information below was compiled from official actions and a candidate questionnaire distributed by the Commonwealth Policy Center, which works with the Commonwealth Policy Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan Kentucky organization. CPF does not endorse or oppose any candidates.



Daniel Cameron (R)

Scan for
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Resources



NO ¹	Protect Human Life	YES
NO ²	Protect Religious Freedom	YES
NO ³	Educational Freedom	YES
YES ⁴	Forced Gender Preferred Pronouns	NO
YES ⁴	Transgender Bathrooms and Sports	NO
YES ⁴	Sex "Reassignment" Surgery for Minors	NO
NO ⁴	Parental Rights	YES
NO ⁵	Work Requirements for Medicaid	YES
MIXED ⁶	Lower Taxes	YES

For comprehensive footnotes on both candidates go to CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org

¹ Beshear vetoed the 15-week abortion ban (HB 3 - 2022) and the Born Alive Act (SB 9 - 2020) as governor.

² Beshear ordered state police to target churchgoers on Easter Sunday (4/12/20) during the COVID lockdown. He also sought to prevent Sunrise Children's Services' state contract because of their biblical views.

³ Beshear vetoed HB 563 (2021), which created a tax credit for education opportunity accounts. Beshear also vetoed HB 9 (2022), which provided funding for charter schools.

⁴ Beshear vetoed SB 150 (2023), which protects Kentucky school kids from controversial LGBT indoctrination in K-12 public school classrooms, makes clear that bathroom and locker room policy corresponds to biological sex, and prohibits gender medical procedures of minors. Beshear also vetoed SB 83 (2022), which kept boys off girls' sports teams.

⁵ Should able-bodied adults (age 19-64) have to work, volunteer, attend school or receive job training for at least 20 hours per week? AP News, "Kentucky governor rescinds planned Medicaid work requirement," December 26, 2019.

⁶ Beshear vetoed HB 8 (2022), which codified the process to reduce the state income tax. He said reducing the income tax "threatens Kentucky's economic future."

Your Vote
Matters
for a
Better
Kentucky!

Community Calendar

MULTI-CHURCH REVIVAL

A multi-church community revival will be held Sunday, **Thursday, Oct. 19 and Friday, Oct. 20.** Services begin at 6 p.m. each night at various churches. Thursday: Pickett's Chapel Church, 3047 Portland Rd., with Tracy Moon. Friday: Fry Baptist Church with Larry Huckaby. For more information call 270-634-1032.

LUNCH FUNDRAISER

Through the Fire Worship Center will have a lunch fundraiser on **Friday, October 20.** in the parking lot of the Ice House on Jamestown St. in Columbia. There will be a choice of either a tenderloin sandwich or two hot-dogs, chips, dessert, and a drink for \$8. All proceeds will go towards church youth activities.

FOOD PANTRY FOR THE ELDERLY

Trinity Church, 2418 Campbellsville Rd., will have a perishable food pantry for the elderly (65 and older) and the disabled (receiving a disability check) of Adair County on **Saturday, Oct. 21,** from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Participants will have to go inside the Family Life Center to sign in and receive the food. Sign up now by calling the church office at 270-384-3259 and speak to the secretary. Please call during office hours, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. If no answer, please call the next day. Even if you have been before, you must sign up each time.

HOMECOMING SERVICES

Tabernacle Christian Church, 13175 Liberty Rd. in Columbia will have homecoming services on **Sunday, Oct. 22** beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Lindsey Family will sing during the morning worship service. A pot luck meal will immediately follow in the church basement fellowship hall. Bro. Terry White and the congregation invite and welcome everyone to attend.

WALKING TOUR

"Shot - Stabbed - Hanged - and More on the Columbia Public Square." A unique walking tour of the Public Square in Columbia on **Friday, October 27** at 7 p.m. will highlight a few of the many incidents that have occurred on and just off the Town Square. There will be incidents of the community's varied past illustrated, some in graphic detail. The tour will be led by Mike Watson and Dave Thomas. The group will form at the annex steps. This is an educational, historical walk back into the wild years of early Columbia, the Civil War, and more. It is not intended for small children, as it can be

a bit gory. For more information, contact Mike Watson, Adair Genealogy and History Research Center, at 270-380-1024 or email adairgenealogy@gmail.com.

TRICK OR TREAT

Trick or Treat hours for Columbia and Adair County this year will be **Tuesday, Oct. 31** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Treats on the Town will be held during that time on the square. Businesses or organizations that want to hand out candy should register with the Chamber of Commerce by calling 270-384-6020 or email coladair@duo-county.com.

GOSPEL SINGING AND AUCTION

The Breeding Area Volunteer Fire Department will host a chili supper, gospel singing and auction on **Saturday, Nov. 4** at 4 p.m. The Blakeys will sing from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. An auction will begin at 5:30 p.m. Chili, hot dog, dessert and drink will be available for \$7. Children 6 and under eat free. Anyone wishing to donate an item for the auction can bring it the day of the auction or call Terry Harvey at 270-378-1807.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child will be hosted by Columbia First Church of the Nazarene in the Wheel Fellowship Building, located at 1200 Jamestown St. in Columbia. Collection dates are Monday, November 13, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday, November 14, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Wednesday, November 15, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday, November 16, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Friday, November 17, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Saturday, November 18, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Sunday, November 19, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Monday, November 20, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

ELECTION RELATED DEADLINES

Absentee ballots can be requested through **Oct. 24** at p.m. for people who cannot meet criteria.

Excused in-person absentee voting will take place **Oct. 25, 26, 27, 30, 31 and Nov. 1** at the clerk's office from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Must bring proof of ID.

Early voting will take place **Nov. 2, 3, and 4** at the annex basement, 424 Public Sq. from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Must bring proof of ID. Any registered voter from any precinct may vote during these days.

Election Day is Nov. 7. Voting will take place at precincts from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Send items to newsroom@adairvoice.com by Monday at 10 a.m.



Birthday Box

Oct. 19

Teresa Roy
Jeana Pike
Amy Irvin

Oct. 20

Kayla Hagedorn
Meggin Yates
Tyler Mann
Jennifer Greer

Oct. 24

Gina Collins

Oct. 25

Jennifer Cross
Charlie Crawhorn
Chelsea Conover

Oct. 26

Grant Loy

Oct. 27

Cassie Burns
Connie Stone

Oct. 30

Kirby Hancock

Oct. 31

Matthew Humphress

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CALENDAR
OR
BIRTHDAY

BOX

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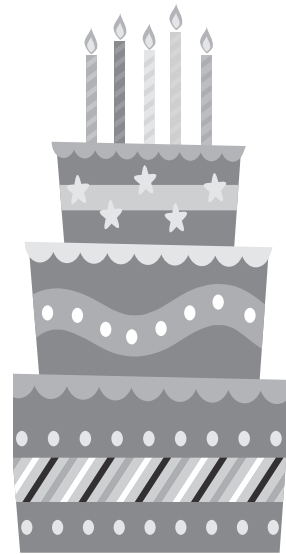
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9454

or email

newsroom@adairvoice.com



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EDITORIAL AND COMMENTS

Truth will prevail.

*"For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed;
neither hid that shall not be known."*
Luke 12:2

Sharon Burton
Publisher and Owner

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FREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free birthday listings and community events can be recorded by calling 270-634-0570 after business hours or verbally given to a customer service representative during business hours at 270-384-9454. Trader items are free to paid subscribers.

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All advertising is run subject to publisher's approval. We do not knowingly accept fraudulent or objectionable advertising. Readers are asked to report any misrepresentation by any advertisers.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Adair County Community Voice encourages local readers to submit letters to the editor.

They will be published on a first-received, first-published basis. All letters must contain the signature, address and telephone number of the writer (for confirmation purposes). We reserve the right to edit and reject any letter. Letters must not contain material that is deemed offensive or libelous by the Voice. We reserve the right to limit the frequency of published letters by any individual. Letters of endorsement for candidates will be published up until two issues prior to any election. Any letter making allegations against someone will be held until the other party has the opportunity to respond within the same publication. Letters should be clearly identified as letters to the editor and mailed to Editor, The Adair County Community Voice, P.O. Box 159, Columbia, KY 42728 or emailed to snburton@adairvoice.com.

NEWSROOM CORRECTION POLICY

The Adair County Community Voice strives for accuracy when reporting the news. If you see an error, please contact the newsroom at 270-384-9454, and the error will be corrected as soon as possible.

...That we may glorify the Father



One Voice

Sharon Burton

Time to NOT think

My mind does not want me to write this column this week. I feel myself turning off my opinion about everything. It's telling me that it's time to rest.

First of all, I tried to conjure up a positive message. We had a very successful Downtown Days this weekend, so why not write about that, my brain asked. Then it reminded me that we decided to be a vendor during the event and offer free face painting. Covid hit, other illnesses hit, and I ended up with one employee who could do face painting and a slew of volunteers to help me keep the booth running and cover the event. I am still amazed – and appreciative – that we pulled it off.

I then go in search of some news that I can offer an opinion about, but it quickly became clear my brain just would not go there. There's the governor's election and the really bad television ads taking place right now. I thought about warning our readers about those ads, because they are a twist of the truth and sometimes a total breakdown of the truth. That's not where you need to look to choose your next governor.

Telling you more would require me going back and watching some

I wasn't looking
for something
fun to do, I was
looking for
somewhere to go
where I could do
nothing.

of those hideous ads, and I would rather eat worms.

I decided to scroll through the Washington Post (what was I thinking) and ran up on an article about how stress is causing Americans to live shorter lives. Seriously, did I need to see that today of all days?

Before the article got real informative, it got a little too political for me: it turns out we are all stressed because we live in such a terrible country. We are all worried about money and factors that are "out of our control," such as inflation, violence, politics and race relations.

Wait...out of our control?

Then who controls it? If we haven't created the society in which we live, then who did?

See.....that is where my mind is going today. Stop

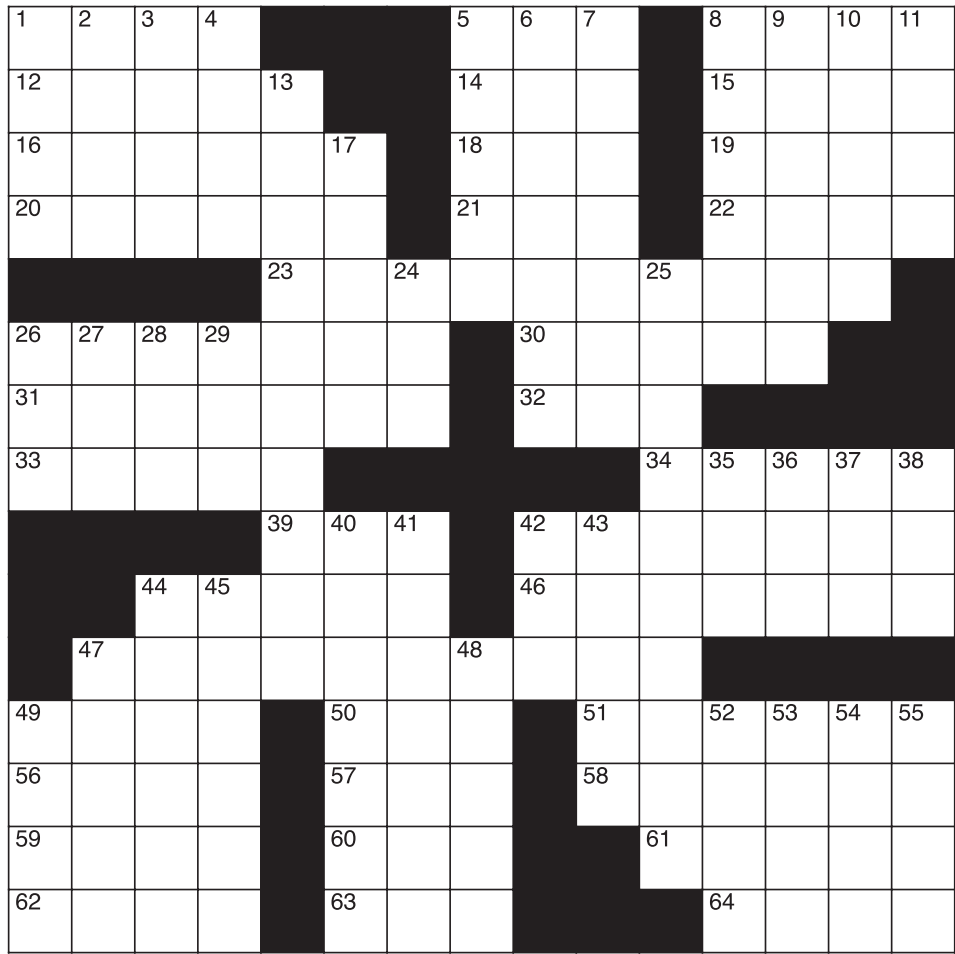
whining, America, and get to work fixing our problems.

I am not safe around society today! I actually think we have something to do with our own destiny.

At this point, I decide to avoid the news, and for a brief moment took to social media. Oh yeah, that is so much better – not. The good news is that Facebook has taken over my feed with suggestions and ads and I got bored before I saw too many people unhappy with the hamburger they bought yesterday. I do appreciate those of you who fill your feed with photos of the food you cook. Now if we could just get some recipes, because I'm in the mood to try some new menus.

I have to admit, while covering a meeting earlier this week I was also secretly scrolling through the Airbnb website. I wasn't looking for something fun to do, I was looking for somewhere to go where I could do nothing.

And that my friends, is why I'm writing a column about nothing. I need a day or two of nothing. I hope I have not bored you too much, but sometimes, nothing is just what you need.



CLUES ACROSS

1. A device to disengage without a key
5. Subdivision
8. Network of nerves
12. Lounge chair
14. Ocean
15. C. European river
16. Bowl-shaped cavity
18. ___ Caesar, comedian
19. Lyric poems
20. Tia's sister
21. A way to develop
22. Cows collectively
23. Areas close by
26. Slightly disreputable
30. Made a mistake
31. One who cites
32. Food stall: ___ pai dong
33. Narrow valley between hills
34. Members of people living mainly in the Congo
39. More (Spanish)
42. Classroom implements
44. Cognizant of
46. One who tells on others
47. Free from slavery
49. Thick piece of something

50. Containing two nitrogen atoms between carbon atoms
51. Removed entirely
56. Late rocker Turner
57. Appreciated
58. Observation expedition
59. Opposite of subtracts
60. Unit of work
61. Wreckage on the sea bed
62. Affirmative! (slang)
63. Witness
64. River in England

CLUES DOWN

1. A dissenting clique
2. Japanese city
3. Spiritual leader
4. Second letter of Greek alphabet
5. Musical term
6. Ruled over
7. Fortified wine
8. First year player
9. Moved in a circular way
10. Adolescents
11. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
13. Someone who serves in

- the armed forces
17. Bring up
24. Factual written account (abbr.)
25. Having three sides
26. Annoy
27. Hustle
28. American WW2 leader
29. Stale atmosphere
35. US Treasury
36. Sound unit
37. They ___
38. Soviet Socialist Republic
40. Places to play video games
41. Medical event
42. When you hope to arrive
43. Fixed prices
44. Popular Boston song
45. Valley in Indiana and Illinois
47. Omit when speaking
48. German explorer of the Congo Basin
49. Stick around
52. From a distance
53. Heroic tale
54. Amounts of time
55. Eat

How to contact local officials

U.S. Congress

Sen. Rand Paul: 202-224-4343
Bowling Green office: 270-782-8303
Website: paul.senate.gov

Sen. Mitch McConnell: 202-224-2541
Email: senator@mcconnell.senate.gov
Website: mcconnell.senate.gov

Rep. James Comer: 202-225-3115
Tompkinsville Office
Phone: 270-487-9509
Toll Free Number: 1-800-328-5629

Kentucky General Assembly

Sen. Max Wise
Capitol: 502-564-8100
Email: max.wise@lrc.ky.gov

State Rep. Amy Neighbors
Capitol: 502-564-8100
Email: amy.neighbors@lrc.ky.gov

Governor

Gov. Andy Beshear
502-564-2611

Adair County Fiscal Court

Judge Executive Larry Russell Bryant
270-384-4703
Email: cje@adaircountyky.com

Magistrates

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District 2–Daryl Flatt: 270-634-1033
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Email: mayor@cityofcolumbiaky.com

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Mark Harris: 270-634-2542
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District 2–Dana King: 270-634-2608
District 3–Destiny Greer: 270-634-2673
District 4–David Karnes, chair: 270-250-2991
District 5–Troy Grider: 270-250-3523

Send Letters to the Editor:
Adair County
Community Voice
Attn: Sharon Burton
P.O. Box 159
Columbia, KY 42728
or snburton@adairvoice.com

Letters to the editor are encouraged. They must be original and include the name, address and daytime telephone number of the writer. The editor reserves the right to condense and/or reject any letter and to limit frequent writers. The opinions expressed in the letters to the editor and other editorials are those of the writers and do not reflect the views of the Adair County Community Voice.

Businesses and individuals will not be listed in "thank you" letters. Discounted "happy ads" are available by calling 270-384-9454 or visiting our office at 316 Public Sq.

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MEMBER OF:



Chester Gene Taylor



Chester Gene Taylor, of Columbia, passed away at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington.

Chester was 69 years of age, having been born on October 1, 1954 to his late parents, Louis Gillum Taylor and Mildred Coomer Taylor, and grew up in the Gradyville community on the family farm.

Chester attended and graduated from Adair County High School in 1972; from Lindsey Wilson College with an associate degree in arts in 1974; from University of Kentucky with a bachelor degree in agriculture in 1979; also from University of Kentucky with a master's degree in engineering in 1980; and from Western Kentucky University with a master's degree in education in 1982. He is one

of very few educators in Kentucky who held both academic and technical educational degrees.

Chester began his lifelong steel career with employment on the FMC Linkbelt Crane in Lexington, where he was promoted to industrial engineer. After earning his various educational degrees, he came back home to Columbia and began a 27-year career in the vocational education field at Lake Cumberland Area Technology Center as the welding teacher and then was promoted to the school principal in 1990, where he implemented several new programs, vocational classes and night programs, such as Computer Aided Drafting, Computer Aided Machining, Industrial Maintenance, Machine Tool, Hydraulic Pneumatics, and PLC Training to help recruit new industries into the Adair and Russell County communities.

He always felt like he had to hold two jobs at any given time, so he purchased his steel business located at 506 Fairgrounds St. in 1983 and continued to add on to create a 10,000 square foot building, where it remains today. Throughout the years, along with his many welding fabrications, Chester also expanded his business to include garbage

dumpster rental, monthly garbage pickup, as well as home and business construction, all of which he owned and operated under the name "Taylor Services."

Chester held several different welding certifications and was also fully licensed in electricity, plumbing, septic tank installation, and commercial truck driving. Because of his many areas of expertise in the steel industry, Chester erected some of the largest steel structures in the community, such as the Trinity Church Family Life Center, Sandusky Steel Sales buildings, and Majestic Yachts now/known/as Synergy Food Group.

Chester served on board of directors too numerous to mention, but a few were the Adair County Economic Development Authority, Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency, and several other Kentucky state committees.

You would also find Chester donating his time in other areas of the community by remodeling or building homes for family and friends, as well as giving away cars and trucks when he found that a need arose. In one such case, he went to evaluate a home to possibly do some much needed floor repair work, but with the help of other individuals and local busi-

nesses, he was able to raise over \$150,000 and moved the family into a brand new three-bedroom, two-bath home fully furnished for the handicapped resident in only 105 days.

Chester was a member of Egypt Christian Church and was currently serving as Sunday School teacher for the senior adult class, on the board of trustees, and other committees for his church. Chester based his work and service for the Lord on the following scriptures:

Matthew 9:37...He (Jesus) said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few, and Acts 1:8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Because of these scriptures, Chester also served as a 35-year continuous member of The Gideon International Organization beginning in 1988 having spoken at over 75 churches, witnessing to individuals, and passing out hundreds of Bibles across the state of Kentucky in churches, schools, jails, and hospitals.

As Isaiah 55:11 says, "It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always


produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it." It was Chester's desire for all to come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

Chester had a love for Chevrolet trucks, but only white in color, and you would often see him wearing his "uniform" of khaki pants and blue dress shirt with an occasional sweater vest, too. One of Chester's favorite holidays was 4th of July, where he would invite a huge crowd to his shop for a cookout, drive the children around the shop lot in his hand-built barrel train, and then watch fireworks. Most recently, you could find Chester enjoying his newfound passion of flower gardening, along with creating funny hats, costumes and signs to hang on the black bears for those drivers passing by his Knifley Road home, but Chester most loved spending time with his family cruising up and down Green River Lake on his pontoon while fishing and watching sunsets and driving the grandchildren around on his bright red golf cart.

Besides his parents, Chester was preceded in death by his older sister, Sharon Parson, in 2022. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Shuffett Taylor of Columbia; one son, Casey (Sheavon) Taylor of Columbia; one stepdaughter, Dr. Michelle Shuffett of New York; one stepson, William and Monica Shuffett of Greensburg; three grandchildren, Sophie Taylor, Caysen Taylor and Cannon Taylor; one step grandchild, Avery Shuffett; one brother, Barney (Nancy) Taylor of Columbia; one sister, Phyllis (Jeff) Sparks of Columbia; one brother-in-law, Vernon Parson of Gradyville; nieces and nephews, Sherry Burris, Tabettha (Willow) Sparks, Hailey (Chandler) Staten and Briley Taylor.


Funeral service was held Monday, October 16, 2023 with his brother, Barney Taylor and pastors, Paul Patton and Joel Patton, officiating. Casket bearers were Briley Taylor, Chandler Staten, William Shuffett, Kyle Moffett, Michael Collins, David Taylor and Greg Bardin. Junior casket bearers were Caysen Taylor and Avery Shuffett. Honorary casket bearers were the Adair County Gideons. Burial was in Haven Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, donations are requested to be made to The Gideon International Organization or Markey Cancer Center, which can be left at the funeral home.



*The Lord is near to the
brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in
spirit.*

Psalm 34: 18



LET US FIND YOUR HOME!



SOLD

AC-23-172: 40 acres of great country living with an off-grid cabin ready to be finished. This is a gorgeous farm with approximately 15 acres of beautiful, cleared fields and the rest in woods. There's a small creek through the bottom and a year-round spring in the woods.



UNDER CONTRACT

AC-23-145: This great property has a pending offer, but there is a kickoff clause, so we are continuing to show the property and accept offers. Don't miss YOUR chance. Looking for the perfect getaway place that is close to everything? Maybe you are happily living in town, or a great subdivision, but wish you could escape to the country to hunt, fish, tend to some livestock, or just hunt crawdads in the creek, and still be home in time for supper?



AC-23-178: Move-in ready! This great, NEW home is ready to become your "Place". It is setup on a permanent foundation with gutters and decks on a nice lot and should qualify for most government-backed loan programs. With approximately 1500 square feet of floor space the rooms are huge, with large closets and room to spread your wings.



UNDER CONTRACT

WC-23-174: LOCATION. LOCATION. LOCATION. Looking for a place to do business in a high visibility location? This is the place for you! The Kentucky Transportation Department estimates over 78,000 vehicles drive by this location daily! This 1.24 acres of Commercial Property is conveniently located in the heart of Bowling Green at the Highway 68 intersection on Veterans Memorial Lane and Russellville Road.



AC-23-177: Peace and quiet! This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home offers a nice open living, dining and kitchen space with nice counter space and a kitchen island to boot. Laundry is off the kitchen along with enough space for your deep freezer. With the split bedroom floor plan the large master bedroom gives you plenty of privacy for a little peace and relaxation and includes a large master bathroom and walk-in closet.



NEW LISTING

AC-23-180: A rare opportunity to live on a property that feels like a 12-acre park, complete with a great creek at the back. This gorgeous 2600 square foot home is perfectly located at the end of a long driveway; close the gate and keep the world out. Inside you will find spacious accommodations with a peaceful, country view from every window. The grand, open entry area and upstairs sitting room draw you into this great home.



UNDER CONTRACT

RC-23-164: The one you've been waiting for! Some of the most beautiful building sites you'll find anywhere. The backside of this property joins the beautiful Cumberland River, and it is only a couple of minutes from the boat ramp at Winfrey's Ferry Road, and famed "Rock house" is in sight from the back of the farm. Land is partially fenced and has a great 48'X100' barn. It would support livestock, hunting, ATV/Horseback Riding, and would make a wonderful place to live.



UNDER CONTRACT

AC-23-171: Clean, comfortable living for under 100 grand? You know it's hard to find. This large, 2021 model mobile home is super clean and spacious on a great 1.1-acre lot. 3 roomy bedrooms and 2 full baths are just the ticket to speed up the mornings.

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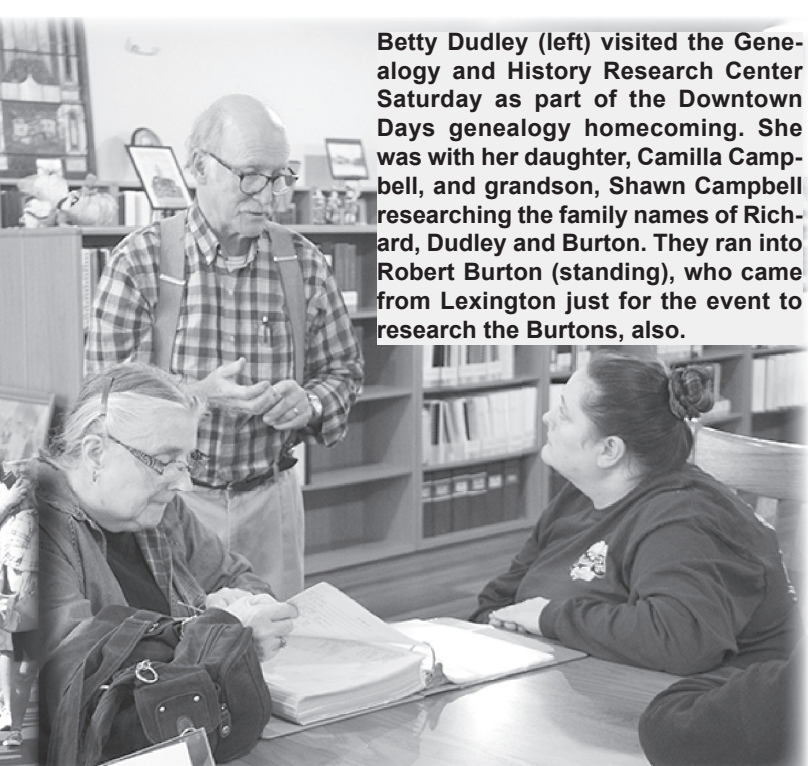


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DOWNTOWN DAYS FUN

Mason and Gracie Sanford checked out the dinosaur den at one of the many vendors during Downtown Days Saturday.



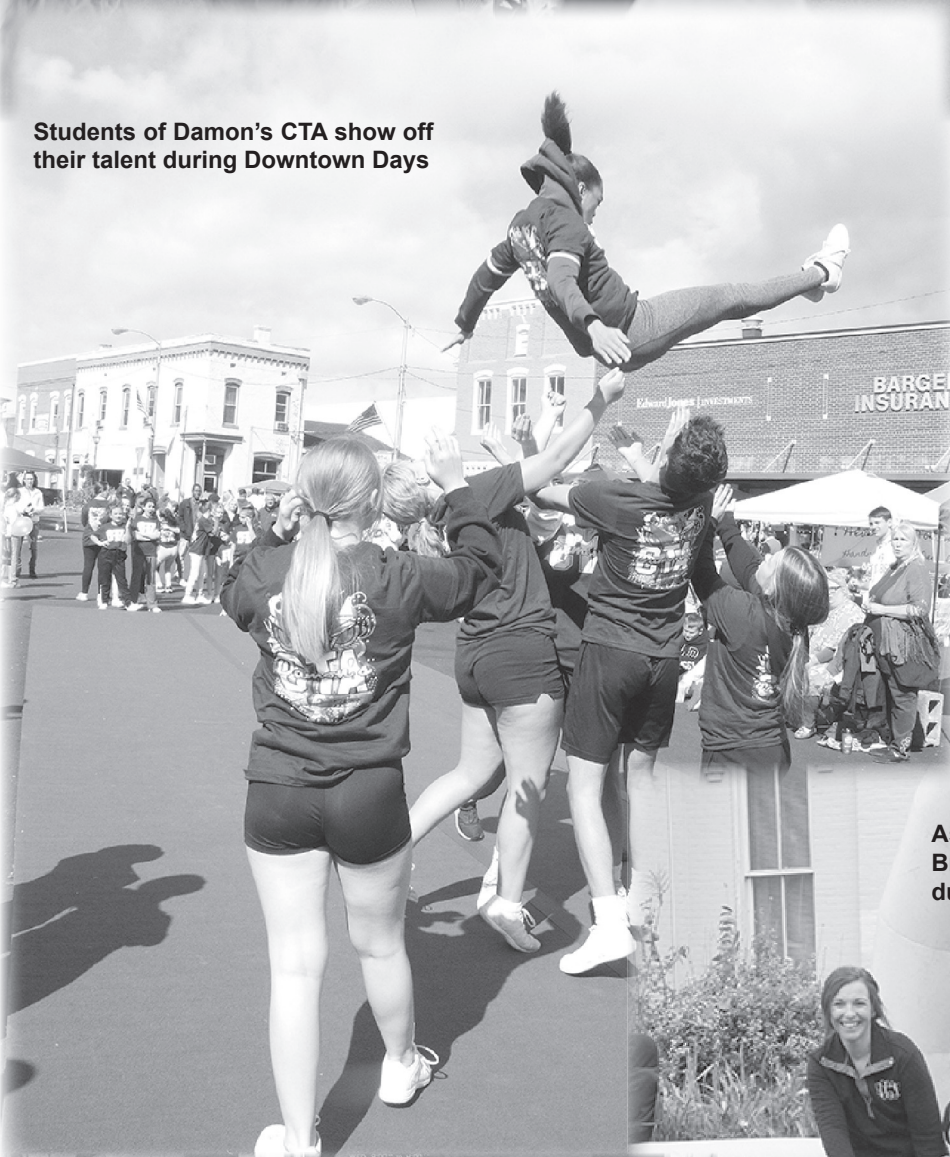
Betty Dudley (left) visited the Genealogy and History Research Center Saturday as part of the Downtown Days genealogy homecoming. She was with her daughter, Camilla Campbell, and grandson, Shawn Campbell researching the family names of Richard, Dudley and Burton. They ran into Robert Burton (standing), who came from Lexington just for the event to research the Burtons, also.



The Dance Shoppe put on a show for attendees to Downtown Days.



Many children enjoyed getting their faces painted.



Students of Damon's CTA show off their talent during Downtown Days



Ashley Capps watches over Brady, 2, as he enjoys a ride during Downtown Days.



County Judge Executive Larry Russell Bryant visited with his friends, the Kentucky Headhunters, before the show Saturday and had them autograph his hat.



John Janes and his pup Gemini were a crowd favorite.

It is the policy of the Community Voice to publish public records as they are recorded by various public offices. All names are published to preserve fairness and impartiality and as a news service to our readers.

PUBLIC RECORD

DISTRICT COURT

Oct. 11
Judge Michael Loy

Amanda Jean Hammond, 43, possession of a controlled substance, 1st degree, first offense, methamphetamine; buy/possess drug paraphernalia. Plea of not guilty, preliminary hearing set for Oct. 25 (2023)

Brittany Dunn, 31, parent/custodian send child to school, first offense; unlawful transaction with a minor, 3rd degree. Review set for Jan. 17 (2023)

Zachary Fitz, 29, motorboats to be registered and numbered; no approved fire extinguisher. Dismissed with proof (2023)

Regina Ann Burchett, 74, assault, 4th degree, domestic violence, no visible injury; possession of marijuana. Plea of not guilty, pretrial conference set for Nov. 1 (2023)

Christopher A. Forster, 37, theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others \$500 or more but less than \$1,000; criminal trespassing, 3rd degree. Pretrial conference set for Oct. 30 (2023)

Karen Elaine Preisinger, 56, assault 4th degree, minor injury. Plea of not guilty, pretrial diversion order entered (2023)

Michael Preisinger, 61, assault 4th degree domestic violence, minor injury. Plea of not guilty, pretrial diversion order entered (2023)

Leah Belcher, 27, disseminating personally identifying information. Plea of not guilty, pretrial conference set for Nov. 1 (2023)

Levis Anyega Momanyi, 49, falsely reporting an incident. Plea of guilty, written order entered (2023)

Regina Burchett, 74, three counts of theft by deception, including cold checks under \$500. Plea of not guilty, pretrial conference set for Nov. 1 (2023)

Audie G. Beard, 56, alcohol intoxication in a public place, first or second offense. Plea of guilty, \$25 (2023)

Matthew D. Elston, 36, public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol). Plea of guilty, credit for time served (2022)

Joel C. Yarberry, 38, public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol); possession of a controlled substance; tampering with physical evidence; wanton endangerment, 1st degree. Hearing conducted, testimony heard, the court finds probable cause, bind over to the grand jury (2023)

James Tristan Smith, 40, careless driving; fleeing or evading police in a motor vehicle, 2nd degree; resisting arrest; possession of open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle. Continued to Nov. 27 (2023)

Melinda Whitaker, 39, theft by deception, including cold checks. Bench warrant issued (2023)

Melinda Whitaker, 39, theft by deception, including cold checks. Bench warrant issued (2023)

Melinda Whitaker, 39, theft by deception, including cold checks. Bench warrant issued (2023)

Melinda Whitaker, 39, theft by deception, including cold checks. Bench warrant issued (2023)

Melinda Gayle Whitaker, 39, operating on suspended/revoked operators license; controlled substance prescription not in original container. Bench

warrant issued (2023)

Dennis E. Hargis, 39, criminal trespass, 1st degree; indecent exposure, 1st degree, first offense. Continued to Nov. 1 (2023)

Krystal M. Janes, 40, cruelty to animals, 2nd degree. Continued to Nov. 15 (2023)

James W. Janes, 53, cruelty to animals, 2nd degree. Continued to Nov. 15 (2023)

Jason Matthew Taylor, 34, alcohol intoxication in a public place, first or second offense; disorderly conduct, 2nd degree. Continued to Nov. 6 (2023)

Isaac Lovell James Frazier, 26, public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol); resisting arrest; disorderly conduct, 2nd degree. Plea of guilty, order entered (2023)

Savannah Michelle Johnson, 31, theft of property lost/mislaid/delivered by mistake. Plea of guilty, order entered (2023)

Timothy Norman Perkins, 62, violation of Kentucky EPO/DVO. Continued to Nov. 1 (2023)

David Crozier, 68, fleeing or evading police on foot, 2nd degree; menacing; resisting arrest. Dismiss fleeing or evading charge, plea of guilty to others, order entered (2023)

Joann Shaw, 46, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol .08, third offense. Continued to Nov. 1 (2023)

Oct. 16
Judge Michael Loy

Joshua Bradshaw, 46, receiving stolen property \$10,000 or more. Plea of not guilty, preliminary hearing set for Oct. 25 (2023)

David Hedgespeth, 44, criminal mischief, residential rental property, 1st degree. Plea of not guilty, preliminary hearing set for Nov. 6 (2023)

William George, 21, trafficking in marijuana, eight ounces to less than five pounds, first offense. Plea of not guilty, preliminary hearing set for Nov. 1 (2023)

Tony A. Sanders, 46, rear license not illuminated; possession of marijuana. Plea of not guilty, pretrial conference set for Dec. 13 (2023)

Melissa Ann Roy, 46, theft by deception, including cold checks under \$500. Bench warrant issued, \$500 bond (2023)

Amani David, 20, speeding 23 mph over limit; failure to wear seat belts; possession of marijuana; buy/possess drug paraphernalia; operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, first offense; reckless driving; license to be in possession. Plea of not guilty, pretrial conference set for Jan. 24 (2023)

Skyler L. Cobb, 38, theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others under \$500. Plea of guilty, written order entered (2023)

Cheryl Bursleson, 61, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, first offense. Plea of not guilty, pretrial conference set for Dec. 13 (2023)

Jasmine Monique McIntosh, 28, speeding 20 mph over (limited access); failure to use child restraint in vehicle; no/expired registration plates; no/expired Kentucky registration receipt; failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance, first offense; resisting arrest; disorderly conduct, 2nd degree; terroristic threatening, 3rd degree; operating on suspended/revoked operators license. Trans-

port order for Nov. 1 (2022)

Ted A. Papineau, 60, criminal mischief, 3rd degree; attempted burglary, 3rd degree. Dismiss criminal mischief, amend attempted burglary to criminal trespass, 1st degree, plea of guilty, written order entered (2023)

Elizabeth Gail Fudge, 49, assault 4th degree domestic violence, minor injury. Continued to Nov. 6 (2023)

Judy G. Sapp, 43, theft by failure to make required disposition of property. Jury trial set for Jan. 22 (2023)

Ashley Sheree Turner, 38, criminal trespassing, 3rd degree; theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others \$500 or more but less than \$1,000. Jury trial set for Dec. 11 (2023)

Jacob Okerosi Atika, 40, alcohol intoxication in a public place, third or greater offense within 12 months. Continue to Jan. 17 (2023)

Christopher L. Pelston, 45, assault 4th degree domestic violence, minor injury. Pretrial diversion order entered (2023)

Dalton Luccas Goodson, 22, harassing communications. Plea of guilty, order entered (2023)

Derek M. Otterson, 34, falsely reported an incident to law enforcement; public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol); fleeing or evading police on foot, 2nd degree; resisting arrest. Jury trial set for Nov. 13 (2023)

Beonicia Scruggs, 29, assault 4th degree domestic violence, no visible injury. Plea of guilty, order entered (2023)

Zachary Chandler Balou, 27, criminal trespass, 2nd degree; attempt to theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others. Continued to Oct. 18 (2023)

Travis Burton, 59, public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol). Continued to Jan. 3 (2023)

Christopher Corbin, 39, no/expired registration receipt; no/expired registration plates; failure to produce insurance card; operating on suspended/revoked operators license; operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, third offense, aggravating circumstance. Continued to Oct. 18 (2023)

LAND TRANSFERS

The estate of Tandy Ann Rodgers, by and through her heir, Whitney P. and Nicholas S. Coe, Columbia to Whitney P. Coe, Columbia. Property located in Adair County described as being Parcel 3 in the division of the lands of Kay Powell. That for and in consideration of the settlement of the Estate of Tandy Ann Rodgers.

Tony E. Gabehart, JR., Knifley to Kim Giles, Knifley. Property located in Adair County described as being located on Allen Cemetery Rd., containing 1.08 acres. \$47,500.

James Rooks, Columbia to Steve Rooks, Columbia. Property located in Adair County described as being located on Sano Rd., containing 150.5 acres more or less. \$8,000.

Candi L. Craig, Dunnville, and Andrew R. Craig, Campbellsville to Edward R. and Cynthia G. Craig, Dunnville. Property located in Adair County described as being Tract 3 of the Henry Schlabach Agricultural Division. \$115,572.22.

Eddie S. and Teresa Ann Durbin, Knifley to Joshua and Sierra Durbin, Knifley.

Property located in Adair County described as being located on England Cook Rd., containing 103.47 acres. \$70,000.

Jerry and Adelia Watson, Columbia, and William Barry and Debra Sue Judd, Richmond to Dorothy Coomer, Columbia. Property located in Adair County described as being Lots 22 and 23 in Block C of the East 80 Estates. \$155,000.

The estate of Johnie M. Maxey, SR., by and through his Executrix, Sandra Lee Maxey, Columbia to Johnie M. Maxey, JR., Midway. Property located in Adair County described as being multiple Tracts containing 5.5 acres more or less. That for and in consideration of the satisfaction of the Last Will and Testament of Johnie Marion Maxey, SR.

Joshua D. and Shyanna M. Collins, Columbia to Wilkerson Investments, LLC., by and through Robin R. Wilkerson, Manager, Columbia. Property located in Adair County described as being located on Plum Point Rd., containing 2.41 acres. \$135,00.

The estate of Clifton Russell McGaha, by and

through his heirs, Barbara McGaha, Columbia, and Ashley and Frankie Froedge, Columbia, and Misty and Mario Alberto Torres-Ayala, by and through his Attorney-in-Fact, Misty Torres, Columbia to Bradford Thompson Luke, Columbia, and Elizabeth Ann Carter, Columbia. Property located in Adair County described as being located on Bryant Cemetery Ln., containing 9.764 acres more or less. \$55,000.

Linda Stearns Hendrickson and James Hendrickson, Crossville, Tennessee to Vernon R. Grider, Markleville, Indiana. Property located in Adair County described as being located on Chance-Rocklick Rd., containing 9.30 acres. \$33,000.

Randall W. Jones, by and through his Attorney in Fact, Barney Willis Jones, Power of Attorney, Columbia to Bradley D. and Karen Lynne Gard, Palm Coast, Florida. Property located in Adair County described as being located on Hwy. 682, containing 0.23 acres more or less. \$175,000.

Charles Menden and

Barbara Waggner Barnes, by and through her Power of Attorney, Susan Lee Barnes Willis, Columbia to Andrew Joseph and Julie L. St. Pierre, Nashville. Property located in Adair County described as being located on Jamestown Rd., containing 12.75 acres more or less. \$160,000.

Burton Investments Group, LLC., by and through Elliot Burton, Manager, Columbia to Pagestreet Properties, LLC., by and through DCJS Legacy, LLC., by and through Dwight David Simpson, Member, San Diego, California. Property located in Adair County described as being Lots 13 and 14 of the Rolling Hills Subdivision. \$163,500.

Public Record Notice

The Adair County Community Voice publishes all grand jury indictments, drug and alcohol related traffic, misdemeanor, felonies, circuit-criminal cases and shock probations.

The year on each charge listed in Circuit and District Court is listed in parenthesis after all of the charges have been listed.

Also, all land transfers and restaurant and food service/retail inspections are published.

The Voice makes every effort to publish court records accurately. However, if you feel an error has been made, contact our office at 270-384-9454.



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SPORTS ROUNDUP: ACMS football wins CKMSAC championship

The middle school football boys' team travelled to Campbellsville last week to play in the Central Kentucky Middle School Athletic Conference championship. The team has been preparing for the conference all year and came in with the team's signature words, "all gas, no brakes." The boys won the CKMSAC championship game 20-18.

Adair lost to Campbellsville in the regular season 26-14 several weeks ago. Coach Wes Stephens said that going up against Campbellsville during the conference championship had a different "feel to the game; we controlled it from start to finish. Coach staff had a good plan ready and the kids prepared hard."

Adair led at the half 14-12. After that the teams stayed close to one another.

It was a tense moment when the clock stopped and Campbellsville made a final pass to score a touchdown. Multiple Adair County Indians knew they wanted to win this year and surrounded the receiver, making sure the 20-18 score wasn't changing, and the ball rolled to the ground, resulting in a win for the Indians.

With the first ever conference win for the boys, Coach Stephens reflected on the season. "We could tell really early on that this was going to be a great group of kids. We had our offensive installed by the second week. We were ready to go and made adjustments that most middle schoolers wouldn't understand, but they did, and they were ready for it."

There is only one chance left to catch the boys' team

playing this year when they head to the Hancock Tire Bowl Game to play against Clinton County tonight. The team is sure to keep their momentum as they will be the on field playing as champions.

ACMS basketball stops at quarterfinals

The Adair County Middle School eighth grade girls basketball made the trip to Lexington to play in the HyperHoops Girls Middle School State Tournament. The team had a strong start in the open pool games. The team beat Martin County 49 - 22, North Laurel 53 - 42 and Foley 50-31.

The team was on a hot streak but lost the momentum in the quarterfinal match against the very skilled Johnson County

team. The match was even at halftime, but Johnson County slowly pulled away and won the match 52 - 41. Coach Mike Sneed showed optimism towards the match and season.

"I am really proud of the girls. They have had a really good competitive year. We had two grades come out as conference champions this year and eighth grade finished runner up, so we have had a very good year."

There are only a few

chances left to see the girls play with one more away game with the team headed to Glasgow tonight.

Adair band finishes regular season

The Adair County Band has been working hard this year with regular performances of "Triplcity," which has brought much entertainment for onlookers. The band was able to finish the regular season

this weekend after traveling to Grayson County. The team brought home three titles from their performance, Reserve Grand Champion, first place overall in Class 3A and first place Color Guard in Class 3A.

The team will head to Warren East High School in Bowling Green to compete in the KMEA quarterfinals on Saturday. Performances begin at 1 p.m.

Adair defeats Butler at homecoming game 33-13

The buildup before this week's game between Adair and Butler counties was one for the ages. Both teams were coming off a loss and looking to get their season back on track. The fact that this was a homecoming game for the Indians just made it all the more important that they played their best ball of the year.

The story of the game stayed consistent throughout and on the offensive side of the ball. It was quarterback Lane Grant running all over the Bears' defense. Although Grant was only able to achieve four complete passes for 36 yards in the air, he was able to generate a timely touchdown to Solomon Stone-

braker. On the ground, Grant rushed for 224 yards on eight attempts and three touchdowns. These numbers from Grant are some of the best ever seen in Adair County High School football, and he shows no sign of stopping soon.

Defensively it was an all-around team effort as many players finished with numerous tackles. The two players that particularly stood out were Timothy Streeval and Deshawn Crowdus. The hard-hitting linebacker duo accumulated 25 total tackles and were causing havoc for the Bears all night long. Defensive back Aiden Smith was also able to get two interceptions, which set the Indians' offensive up for success.

When asked about his takeaways, Smith said, "I'm lucky to have guys around me that put me in positions to make those plays. If it wasn't for the pressure from the line, or the coverage from my other backs, then I would've never been able to make those plays."

This 33-13 win has put the Indians back on track to continue their impressive season, and Indians' fans have much to look forward to in coming games. Next week the Indians take on McCreary Central away. This is a must win for the Indians as they attempt to round out their season a good note.

By Trenton Page
sports@adairvoice.com

'Shot, Stabbed, Hanged and more' on the Columbia Public Square

A unique walking tour of the Public Square in Columbia will highlight a few of the many incidents that have occurred on—and just off—the Town Square, illustrating its rich history. Just as the title states, there will be incidents of the community's varied past illustrated, some in graphic detail.

The tour will be led by Mike Watson and Dave Thomas—fresh off the Lanterns and Tombstones Tours and Silent City Tours.

The group will form at the annex steps, on the corner of the square and Greensburg Street, and proceed at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 27.

This is an educational,

historical walk back into the wild years of early Columbia, the Civil War, and more. It is not intended for small children, as it can be a bit gory.

For more information contact Watson at the Adair Genealogy and History Research Center at 270-380-1024 or adairgenealogy@gmail.com.

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Good luck Adair County Band!

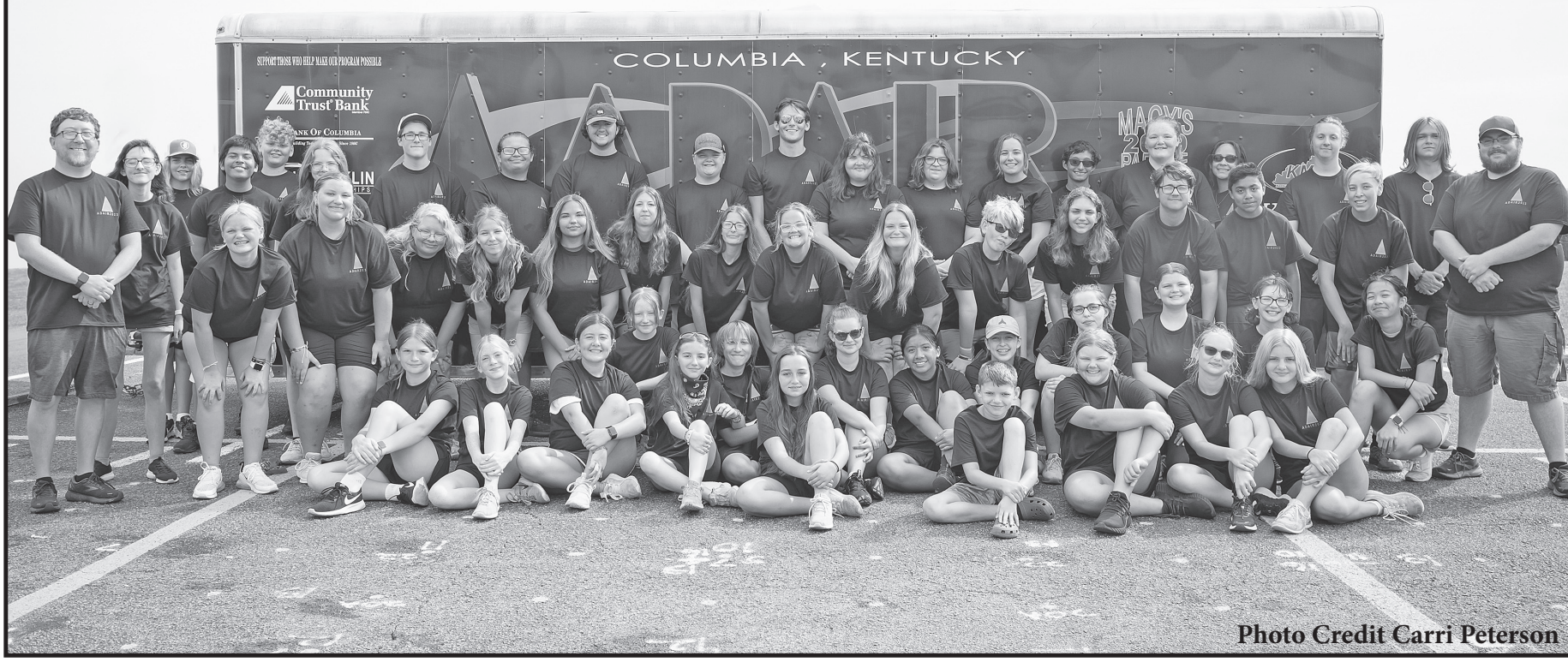


Photo Credit Carri Peterson

The Adair County Band has been working hard this year with regular performances of "Triplcity," which has brought much entertainment for on-lookers. The band was able to finish the regular season this weekend after traveling to Grayson County. The team brought home three titles from their performance, Reserve Grand Champion, first place overall in Class 3A and first place Color Guard in Class 3A. The team will head to Warren East High School in Bowling Green to compete in the KMEA quarterfinals on Saturday. Performances begin at 1 p.m.

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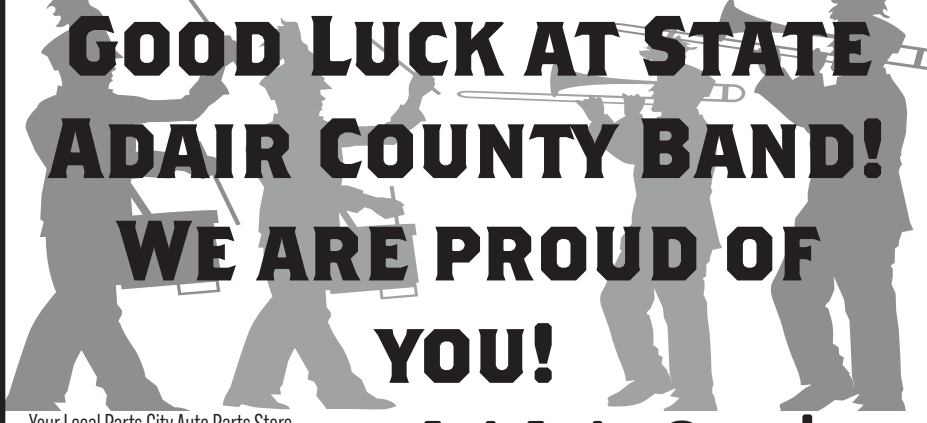
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Page 10 and Page 11 photo credit Doyle Lloyd

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON

Adair County High School Band
from Lindsey Wilson College



LWC

BLUE RAIDER BAND

Many distinguished Kentucky high school band members have continued to participate in band at Lindsey Wilson College.

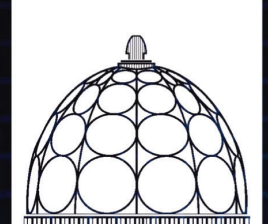
Membership in the Blue Raider Band is open to all students (auditions are not required).

Applying is free and band scholarships are available.

For more information, contact:
Blue Raider Band Director, Tim Allen
Office: (270) 384-7337
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Turning words into action

FROM PAGE 1

plans to make their dream become a reality and purchased the land for the new campus before Kentucky and other states received billions of dollars in settlement funds in opioid-related lawsuits.

“We were going to do this whether we had the grant or not,” said Grider. However, the award from their grant application has accelerated plans, allowing them to open most of their facilities early next year.

“We know that we are not just talking about making a difference, we are ready to go to battle and make a difference,” said Grider.

The funding came after the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission released \$13.9 million in funding to help organizations in Kentucky such as Serenity Counseling and Blessed Billing. The Attorney General’s office gave priority to groups that were already making an impact prior to funding. With over 20 years of

experience in the field, the grant application was awarded to the women for the full amount of \$355,615.

“We received an email saying the commission wanted to meet with us and we were not sure what that meant. We asked Lynda Wilkerson, who helped us write the grant, and she told us, ‘you got it!’ I was in total shock,” said Smith. The women celebrated with many tears of joy.

“We all prayed that it was God’s will for us to get it. We knew God wanted us to do this,” said Grider.

Serenity Counseling has been serving Columbia for 10 years and has seen great success in its current counseling programs. Ashley Hardwick and Cecelia Bunch began their counseling work with inmates in local jails where they saw frontline effects of addiction and abuse disorders. They now offer a wide arrange of counseling, from Individual Substance Use Disorder Therapy, Individual Mental Health Therapy, DUI Assess-

ments, SUD Assessments, DUI Group Services and more.

Effective programs

“I think when it comes to treatment, we keep hitting a wall,” said Bunch when asked about the current practices for substance abuse disorders. Bunch said many in-patient treatment programs start with the client showing progress after 30 to 60 days. After this, they are sent home and left without much life experience or support they need and inevitably will fall back into the cycle that they initially left.

People are skeptical to hire someone that just exited a substance abuse program and the change needed is what Serenity Counseling aims to do with a new campus. The program offers a more holistic approach, addressing not just the addiction, but the need to build a successful life that is drug-free.

The eventual goal is to move all the offices and assets into the new location. This includes seren-

ity counseling, Blessed Billing, the coffee hut, print house and the addition of more sober living units, explained Hardwick.

Clients begin their journey through Serenity Counseling where they will receive treatment and be housed into one of the sober living units. Currently there is room for only two female patients. On the new campus there will be eight female and eight male sober living beds. Along with the current two units, this allows for a capacity of 18 individual clients going through the process at any given time. This has the potential for up to 70 or more patients to complete the sober living program per year.

Once a client has made significant progress, Blessed Billing and Consulting will step in to help with “post treatment.” Clients will be able to take life skills courses ranging from food safety to administrative certifications.

Also available will be a mock interview and

office space that will allow the women and men to practice taking interviews and learn the basics of computer skills and office attire.

The clients will also have the ability to work while going through treatment, which enables them to be paid and gain work experience after sobriety. The newly announced Coffee Hut coming next year will be a drive-thru only with outdoor patio seating. Shelby Smith will oversee the coffee shop, which will also house a horticulture business to “allow residents to learn how to make plants grow, while also growing themselves,” said Smith.

The last opportunity for sober living workers will come in the form of a print shop that will make articles of clothing with “anti-stigma” messaging that surrounds the topic of addiction and substance abuse disorders.

“We want to get rid of stigma because people are too afraid to get treatment because of what people might think,” said

Smith.

While going through the process of sober living, residents will experience the community building that would not normally be offered by a regular rehab center.

“We want to make sure these people are not sent back to the same situation that they came out of. We want to give them a choice of going back to be productive and not be trapped in the lives of the devil that say they are useless or trapped,” said Grider.

After residents complete the program and sober living, they will have the option of joining the team of counselors and business owners to help other men and women complete the program. If not, Grider and other staff will help residents enter back into working class life with a full resume and the experience needed to find the job that is right for them.

By Brandon Roberts
newsroom2@adairvoice.com

OCTOBER 2023



NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY MONTH



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