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14



22

# JULY

VOL 79 | NO 7

14

## PHOTO CONTEST

**ON THE COVER** More than 2,000 photo contest entries resulted in 15 stunning finalists in the 2025 *Kentucky Living* Photo Contest. Congratulations to our winners!

22

## OFF BOOK

Emergency volunteer coordination, job search assistance, tech training, genealogy resources and more—libraries across Kentucky offer much more than just books.

**ON THE COVER** Is there anything better than watching a well-trained dog at work? Corey Wilson won first place in the Animals category of the 2025 Photo Contest with this photo of Tilly, who was in training with Camp Canine, a dog training and boarding company owned by Jordan Camp in Utica.

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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

KentuckyLiving is published to create a community of people who take pride in thinking of themselves as Kentuckians and as knowledgeable electric co-op consumer-members, in order to improve their quality of life.

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**PHONE:** (800) 595-4846

**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE:** PO Box 32170, Louisville, KY 40232

**SHIPPING:** 1630 Lyndon Farm Ct Ste 200, Louisville, KY 40223

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Visit KentuckyLiving.com. **CO-OP MEMBERS:** To report address changes, please call your local co-op office.

## ADVERTISING OFFICES

PO Box 32170 (40232)

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## OUR NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

American MainStreet Publications

611 S. Congress Ave., Suite #504 Austin, TX 78704

1-800-626-1181 • (512) 441-5200, **FAX** (512) 441-5211

## AND NOW FOR THE LEGAL STUFF

KentuckyLiving, Vol. 79, No. 7, (ISSN 1043-853X) is published monthly by the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives Inc., 1630 Lyndon Farm Ct Ste 200, Louisville, KY 40223-5031. Periodicals Postage Paid at Louisville, Kentucky, and at additional mailing offices.

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\$2.99 per year for co-ops that subscribe for their members on a monthly basis; all others, \$15 for one year, \$25 for three years. **NEWSSTAND COST:** \$2.95.

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# Beautify the Bluegrass

**DEADLINE TO  
NOMINATE IS JULY 14**

Across Kentucky, volunteers and communities work to Beautify the Bluegrass.

Do you know of a beautification project that deserves recognition?

Kentucky's electric cooperatives are committed to improving the quality of life in the communities we serve, and are partnering with Gov. Andy Beshear to recognize local beautification efforts.

## Nominate someone today!

1. Help us recognize projects completed since August 2024.
2. Go to [KentuckyLiving.com/Beautify](https://KentuckyLiving.com/Beautify) for details.
3. Enter by July 14.

KentuckyLiving



Finalists to be announced by Gov. Beshear on August 13 during Kentucky Living's 2025 Best in Kentucky awards.



CHRIS HAYES

# SHARE YOUR AMERICAN PRIDE

With the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence approaching next year, *Kentucky Living* wants to hear from you—**what makes you proud to be an American?**

Share your story, memory or photo with us for possible print consideration in 2026.

Find out more at [KentuckyLiving.com/250](http://KentuckyLiving.com/250).

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# BEST IN KENTUCKY AWARDS SHOW



HOSTED BY  
HEATHER FRENCH HENRY

10 A.M. – WEDNESDAY,  
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## CO-OP COMMUNITY

# My favorite things

*Good books and power restoration*

**AT FIRST GLANCE**, reading a good book and restoring power might seem worlds apart. But in this issue of *Kentucky Living*, they're closer than you'd think.

I've always loved to read, and to this day, one of my favorite things to do is find a comfortable chair, crack open a book and lose myself in a great story. I love all kinds of books—from sports books, like O.B. Keeler's biography of the golfer Bobby Jones, to historical nonfiction. One of my favorite books of all time is Erik Larson's *The Splendid and the Vile*, an account of Winston Churchill's first year in office. I'm always inspired by stories of people who persevere through adversity, and there may be no better example than the resilience of Londoners during the Blitz.

You can find these titles and more at your local library—but libraries are so much more than just books. Our feature on page 22 highlights the role libraries play in providing resources to communities across our state. Libraries offer career services, educational programs, genealogy research and many other programs you might not expect. And when natural disasters strike, libraries are often on the front lines to collect donations and organize volunteers.

That brings me to my second favorite thing—restoring power. We are blessed to enjoy safe, reliable power at the flip of a switch, and it's easy to take electricity for granted until severe weather reminds us just how important it is. Having worked on a line crew myself, I can tell you that restoring power is truly satisfying. There's no feeling quite like turning the lights back on for a home that has been in the dark.

Kentucky's electric cooperatives work diligently to restore power as quickly and safely as possible, even in



DWIGHT ROBINSON

the aftermath of the worst disasters, and even when disasters have affected the cooperative itself.

On page 10, we share perspectives from South Kentucky RECC and Jackson Energy, both of which were significantly impacted by recent tornadoes. In trying times like these, we are so proud of Kentucky's electric cooperatives, working tirelessly, even during disaster, to turn the lights back on.

It seems our state can't catch a break from severe weather, from winter storms to floods, tornadoes and more. We know our communities are still suffering, and it will be a long road through grief and rebuilding to get back to anything like normal. But you can count on your electric cooperative family to be with you every step of the way.

And in those moments of precious calm, when the sky is clear and the day's work is done, I hope you can visit your local library to learn a new skill, join an activity group or just pick up your next great read.

Chris

CHRIS PERRY  
President/CEO

KENTUCKY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES



# FROM THE EDITOR

## JULY IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE

*Kentucky Living* issues of the year.

We get to feature 15 absolutely striking images that were taken by none other than you—our talented readers.

You can find the winners of this year's Photo Contest beginning on page 14. This year's spread is top notch, but the amazing photos don't stop there.

Beginning July 1, visit [KentuckyLiving.com](http://KentuckyLiving.com) to vote in a different People's Choice contest each week. We have so many amazing submissions each year that honoring 15 in print only scratches the surface. Please vote for your favorites so we can award an additional prize in each category this summer.

If you prefer words over images to tell a story, learn more about local libraries on page 22. Find your next favorite read and loads of resources at the library in your town.

Have a wonderful Kentucky summer. Hey, you could even start firing up your camera (or phone) to collect images for next year's contest! In 2026, you might find your photo in these pages.

*Shannon*

SHANNON BROCK,  
EDITOR

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[www.KentuckyLiving.com](http://www.KentuckyLiving.com)  
Kentucky Living, P.O. Box 32170,  
Louisville, KY 40232. Submission should include your name, address, phone numbers, email address and name of electric co-op.



# KentuckyLiving.com

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OLIVIA MYERS

## THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

### Remember to vote in online photo contest

We were blown away by the winners of this year's *Kentucky Living* photo contest—and we know you will be, too. Enjoy the winning images beginning on page 14, but don't forget that there's more photo contest fun to come. Visit [KentuckyLiving.com](http://KentuckyLiving.com) to vote in the People's Choice contest, an online-only contest featuring a different category each week in July.



BRYAN KLAUSING



AUGUSTA BRACKEN COUNTY TOURISM

## CHECK IT OUT

### Libraries are more than meets the eye

You probably know that your local library lends books, music, movies and other media—but you might be surprised what else you can find there. Enjoy the story on page 22, then visit [KentuckyLiving.com](http://KentuckyLiving.com) to read more about library resources.

## RIVER ROUTES

### A guide to travel by water

Small Kentucky towns have big history on the banks of the Ohio River. Read the story on page 34, then visit us online to learn more about the Ohio River Way, a 308-mile water trail along the Ohio River, and download river travel itineraries.



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# Ex-preacher and his cat

What obsesses you?

Pondering this question while attending a literary program in Portugal is what lit the spark for Nonesuch author Wes Blake's novella-in-flash, *Pineville Trace*.

A novella-in-flash is a form of writing that links a series of short, self-contained narratives sharing theme, characters or setting to form a larger, cohesive story. Typically, chapters are less than 1,000 words, leading to an easy-to-read work.

In forming the answer to the obsession question, Blake recalled a friend's great uncle who was a revival preacher and wondered how stories of his authenticity matched up with the fraud allegations that came later. "I wanted to explore and write about a character like this," Blake explains in an online blog. "And that's where the main character for *Pineville Trace* was born."

The book centers around Frank Russet, a traveling revival preacher sentenced to a minimum security prison on a fraud conviction. When he escapes with the prison cat, Buffalo, he meanders his way north and back again, introspectively examining his life and place in the world.

Blake also admits an obsession with cats. It's no wonder, then, that a cat also found its way into *Pineville Trace*, serving as a main character in the story

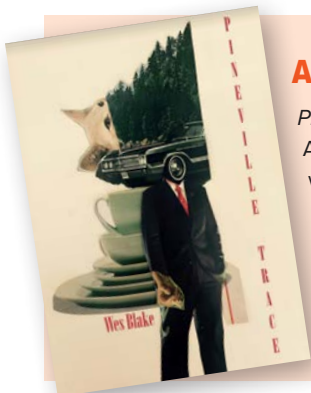
with a human-like personality and the ability to wrench emotion from a reader's heart.

Frank, too, becomes quite taken with Buffalo, relying on the cat to lead the way as they travel. When questioned about his plans by the folks he encounters, he gives the tongue in cheek response, "I'm just following Buffalo."

While Frank spends lengthy chunks of time alone, his grip on reality appears to become slightly unhinged as he drifts among memories, dreams and waking thought. Blake's writing seamlessly reflects this, with a tragically poetic feel, causing the reader to both care for Frank and be disgusted by his choices at the same time. Blake also deftly uses the book's cover to subtly convey the mishmash state of Frank's mental health.

"The idea for *Pineville Trace* came to me while I was driving, and I used my phone's voice recorder to get the idea down before it was lost to me," Blake recalls. "The strangest part was that right after I recorded my first ideas for the novella, a car like Frank's black 1959 Buick LeSabre drove past me on that isolated road on Pine Mountain. What are the odds? It was eerie. But it was clear that Frank wanted his story to be told."

» Penny Woods



## ANOTHER OBSESSION

*Pineville Trace*, (Etchings Press, \$12), can be purchased on Amazon or at local independent bookstores. The book is the winner of the Etchings Press Novella Prize and was a finalist for the Feathered Quills Book Award for Debut Author.

Blake also readily admits an obsession with trees. To date, he and his wife have planted over 120 trees around their Nonesuch home. Learn more about him at [www.wesblake.com](http://www.wesblake.com).

tip

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening reduces indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keeps your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

SCOTT VAN OSDEL



## Communications team earns 12 awards in CCA contest

Kentucky Electric Cooperatives' communications team and *Kentucky Living* recently received national honors in the 2025 Cooperative Communicators Association Communications Contest.

CCA is made up of 350 professionals who communicate for cooperatives of all types.

Team members won 12 awards, which were announced at the CCA Institute in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in early June.

Winners are:

- Entertaining Feature (751-1,499 words), first place, Ryan Craig, *Back road burgers*
- Long-form Feature (more than 1,500 words), second place, Joel Sams, *The vanishing bobwhite*
- Column or series, second place, Byron Crawford, *Byron Crawford's Kentucky*
- Column or series, third place, Joel Sams, *Kentucky Eats*
- Writing Best in Show, Ryan Craig, *Back road burgers*
- Scenic/pictorial, first place, Heather Bilyeu, *Strawberry shortcake*
- Photo essay or story, second place, Katy Hurt, *Backyard bounty*
- Photo essay or story, third place, Jess Hawkins, *Kentucky Main Streets*
- Cover, third place, Kacey Harmeling, March 2024
- Documentary video (over 5 minutes), second place, Wade Harris and Joe Arnold, *2024 Distinguished Rural Kentuckian: Dr. Tony Brannon*
- Story or article design, first place, Kacey Harmeling, *Back road burgers*
- Story or article design, second place, Jess Hawkins, *Tasting history*



Editor Shannon Brock attends the CCA Institute and accepts the awards on behalf of the communications team. Photo: Sara Shafer

## featured FRAMES



Greg Sawyer, a Blue Grass Energy consumer-member, took this photo of a bald eagle behind his house in Mercer County.

### Have a question or comment for the editor?



Please address letters to the editor to: Letters, *Kentucky Living*, P. O. Box 32170, Louisville, KY 40232 or email by going to [KentuckyLiving.com](https://KentuckyLiving.com) and clicking on "Contact Us." Letters may be edited for style, length and clarity.

# Tornado damage meets co-op determination

*Overcoming devastation from May storms*

JOE ARNOLD

**THE SIX TORNADOES** that slammed Kentucky on May 16-17 killed 20 people, injured dozens more and destroyed or heavily damaged thousands of homes and businesses.

Crews from Georgia and fellow Kentucky co-ops helped restore power to more than 110,000 consumer-members statewide.

In southeastern Kentucky's Laurel County, where 17 people died, the devastation encountered by Jackson Energy Cooperative crews was "hard to fathom," says Ryan Henderson, vice president of engineering and operations.

"Poles and wires and transformers were just gone, no idea where they were," Henderson says. "Wire tangled up in trees and debris, cars, you name it."

A snapped Jackson Energy Cooperative pole on Wyan Road in Laurel County indicates the power of the May 16 tornado.  
Photo: Tim Coyle



*When times get tough, that's when the real strength of our co-op family shows up."*

» **Morghan Blevins**

With landmarks obliterated, lineworkers relied on service maps to know where to rebuild the system, replacing 165 poles, 125 transformers and 3.3 miles of power lines.

The home of one co-op employee was destroyed, but as staff worked to help their grieving communities, they also counted their blessings.

"One of our employees said, 'you know, there's been a lot of tragedies this weekend, but we've also heard of a lot of miracles,'" Henderson says.

Thirty miles to the west, South Kentucky RECC's headquarters in Somerset took a direct hit.

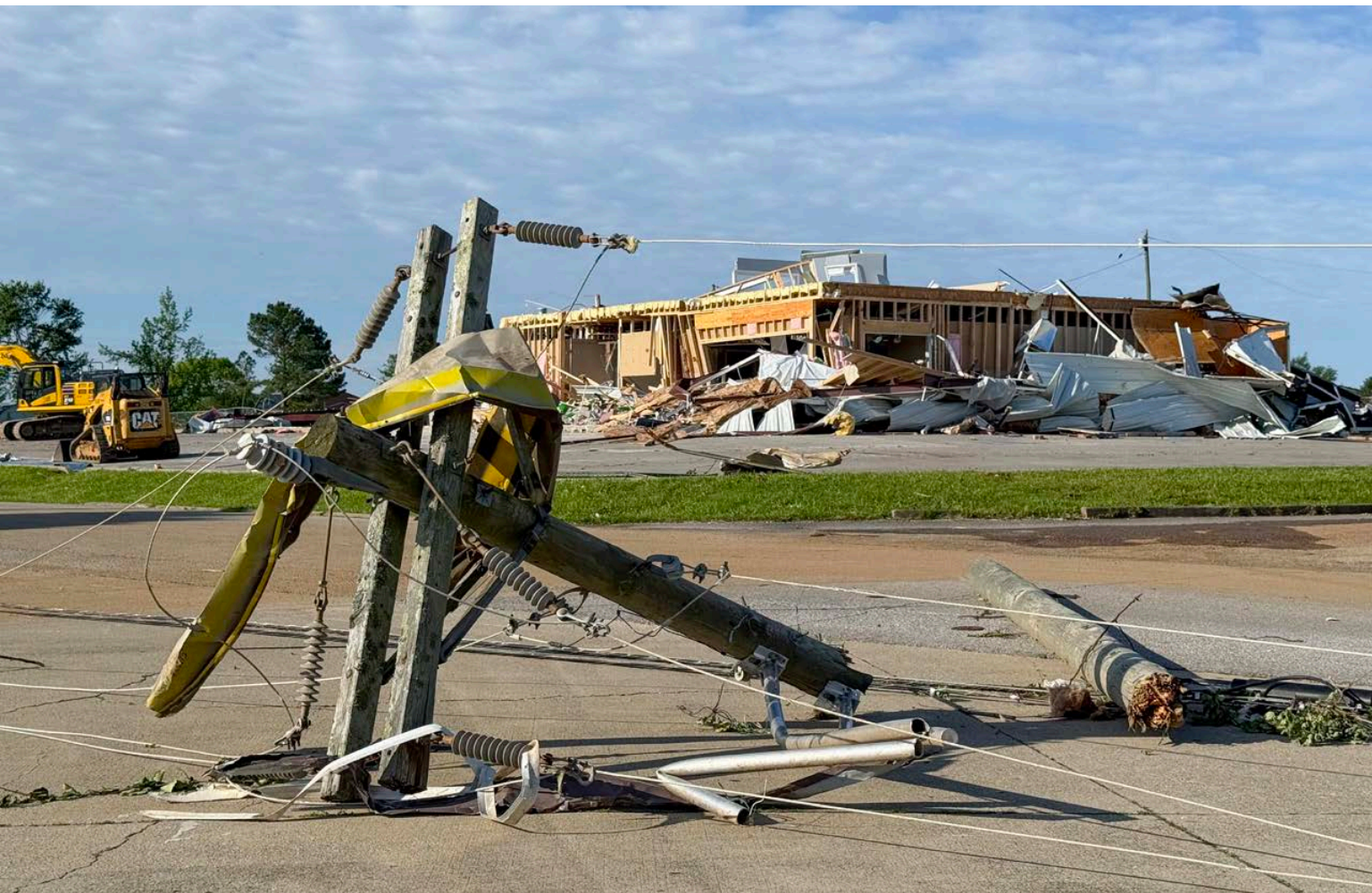
As the co-op's roof was ripped away, a neighboring business was blown apart, its girders slamming into the co-op drive-thru. Within the reinforced walls of the SKRECC operations center, an overnight dispatcher was receiving damage reports from nearby Russell County when the tornado toppled the co-op's radio communications tower and knocked out the outage monitoring system.

"The damage meant we didn't have a system that we could look at," says Roy Bray, the co-op's director of operations. "We were working as if it was 50 years ago."

Acting on instinct and experience, crews began restoring power where they could, with many areas blocked by debris.

"There were just mountains of trees laying across some of the roadways," Bray says, praising the army of firefighters, highway workers, utility crews and citizens who jumped in to clear the way.





Once crews reached the hardest hit areas, Bray says trees were again piled up “7 or 8 feet deep on top of where the power lines had once stood.”

With assistance from other co-ops and the state, SKRECC set up a temporary operations center and phone line to accept outage reports. Before engineers determined it was not safe to access the remaining structure, employees in hard hats salvaged critical equipment and records.

Meanwhile, co-op employees kept working and updating members. Within seven days of the disaster, they had restored power to all able to receive it. It is a “testament to the fact that these linemen care about what they’re doing, each other and our members,” Bray says.

“When times get tough, that’s when the real strength of our co-op family shows up,” echoes Morghan Blevins, the co-op’s communications administrator. “It’s not just about getting the work done—it’s about supporting one another

through hard times and coming out stronger on the other side. That’s what being part of a co-op is all about.”

SKRECC shifted operations to district offices and opened a Member Services Center in the Somerset Mall. A local bank is accepting bill payments.

Meanwhile, SKRECC remained on schedule for its member appreciation days and annual meeting. Less than one month after the tornado, smiling co-op employees distributed complimentary buckets and lightbulbs and even conducted an election for a co-op board seat.

“I am so proud of our team,” says South Kentucky RECC President and CEO Kevin Newton. “Even with their office space gone, they’ve stayed completely committed to getting things back up and running. It’s not easy, but they’ve kept going, showing what real dedication looks like. It says a lot about the kind of people we have here.” **KL**

▲  
The South Kentucky RECC headquarters in Somerset sustained catastrophic damage during the May 16 tornado. Photo: Chris Hayes

# 50 years of fun

▶ Fleming-Mason Energy consumer-member Jerry Wagner has been a part of the Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys & Girls Ranch for 43 years.

Children get to have plenty of fun and interact with law enforcement. "We like to build relationships now rather than mending them later," Wagner says. Photos: Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys & Girls Ranch

## Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys & Girls Ranch

### GILBERTSVILLE

The Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys & Girls Ranch in Gilbertsville has served children and their families in every county across the state for 50 years. Jerry Wagner, executive director of both the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association and the Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys & Girls Ranch, has devoted 43 years of his law enforcement career to the ranch.

Wagner, a lifelong Fleming-Mason Energy consumer-member, began working in the Fleming County Sheriff's Office in 1982. "One of my first assignments that they put me on there was raising money to help support the Sheriffs' Boys & Girls Ranch in our local community," he says. Every year after that, Wagner continued fundraising for the organization that operates

solely on donations. Then in 2007, he became the executive director.

The ranch is a weeklong summer camp that strives to make a positive impression on the lives of children ages 8-11, with alternating sessions—boys come one week, girls the next. The camp serves around 350-400 kids each summer. Sheriffs' offices in each county work with schools, churches and civic organizations to select children who may benefit the most from spending time there. Programming includes drug and alcohol education classes and interaction with counselors, plus plenty of downtime for games, arts and crafts, and swimming. "It's a good mix of education and social fun," Wagner says.

Children also interact with the sheriffs and deputies. "It gives us the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with the children and law



enforcement because we're looking to build a good relationship with those children," Wagner explains. "We like to build relationships now rather than mending them later."

As the ranch celebrates five decades of service to Kentucky's children, Wagner continues raising money for the program, just as he did when his law enforcement career first began. Buildings on the grounds were originally built by the Tennessee Valley Authority in the 1930s, so fundraising efforts are underway to either update or construct new kitchen and dining facilities.

"I'm just very proud that we've been able to serve the youth of our state for 50 years and do it at no cost to the families that we have provided that for," Wagner says. "And that's just something that we're all proud of, and we'd like to continue that." **KL**

*Learn more or inquire about volunteer opportunities:*  
(270) 362-8660  
[www.kentuckysheriffs.org](http://www.kentuckysheriffs.org)

**AMY COBB** is the author of two book series for children, *Band Geeks* and *Libby Wimbley*.



# Driving growth from the ground up

*Family-owned PMI powers aggregate industry and local economy*

JOE ARNOLD

**TO BUILD ROADS**, bridges and foundations, you first need rock-solid infrastructure—literally. For more than four decades, Process Machinery Inc. in Shelbyville has helped make that possible.

Founded in 1979 by David Miles and his father, William, PMI designs and builds full-scale plants that process stone, sand and gravel for the aggregate industry. Today, under third-generation leadership of siblings Daniel Miles and Jennifer Miles Ratterman, PMI's 120 employees supply and service quarry operations across the country.

"We're not just a supplier—we're a partner to our customers," says Ratterman, PMI's executive vice president. "We offer complete solutions—from engineering and fabrication to on-site installation."

Though the company has grown steadily for years, it's never outgrown its roots.

"Working in a family-owned company has been personally rewarding," Ratterman says. "Daniel and I have worked in various roles throughout the company, and that



experience helps us stay grounded and connected to every part of our business."

That connection extends to the community. When PMI needed to expand, they stayed in Shelby County—a decision Ratterman calls "deliberate and meaningful."

"This community has supported us for nearly 30 years," she says. "By growing here, we're creating local jobs, working with local vendors and investing in the future of our hometown."

PMI's commitment to community also includes partnerships with

local schools and nonprofits, and a collaborative relationship with Shelby Energy Cooperative.

"Shelby Energy has been an outstanding partner," Ratterman notes. "From energy audits to assistance with tax credits, they've been proactive in helping us move forward."

"PMI represents the best of what it means to do business in a cooperative-served community," says Mary Beth Dennis, director of communications and member services at Shelby Energy.

"Working for a third generation owned and operated company means you're not just part of a business, you're part of a legacy," adds Jackie Disponette, manager of marketing and employee relations. "There's a deep-rooted pride in everything we do at PMI, and it shows in the way we treat our employees, our customers and our community. You feel the commitment to quality, to people and to doing things the right way. It's rock solid." **KL**



ProcessMachinery.com

**LOCATION:**  
Shelbyville

**INDUSTRY:**  
Aggregate processing equipment and services

**ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE:**  
Shelby Energy Cooperative

◀ A PMI employee does fabrication work at the Shelbyville shop. Photo: PMI

## ***PMI announces \$11.5 million expansion***

Process Machinery Inc. is expanding its Shelbyville facility with an \$11.5 million project that will create 30 jobs and add more than 28,000 square feet of space by 2026. The phased expansion includes site development, a new paint facility, additional manufacturing and office space, and new equipment.

"This isn't just about growing our business—it's about growing opportunity here in Shelby County," says Jennifer Miles Ratterman, PMI's executive vice president. "We're excited to deepen our local investment and build a sustainable future together."



## 2<sup>nd</sup> LANDSCAPES & SCENERY

Richena Holbert  
**SALT RIVER ELECTRIC MEMBER**  
A moment of reflection on a wintry  
day at the Abbey of Gethsemani.



## 1<sup>st</sup> LANDSCAPES & SCENERY

Wayne Garmon  
**FARMERS RECC MEMBER**  
A field of daffodils blooms on a  
foggy morning in Barren County.

# 2025 *KENTUCKY LIVING* **PHOTO CONTEST** WINNERS



## 3<sup>rd</sup> LANDSCAPES & SCENERY

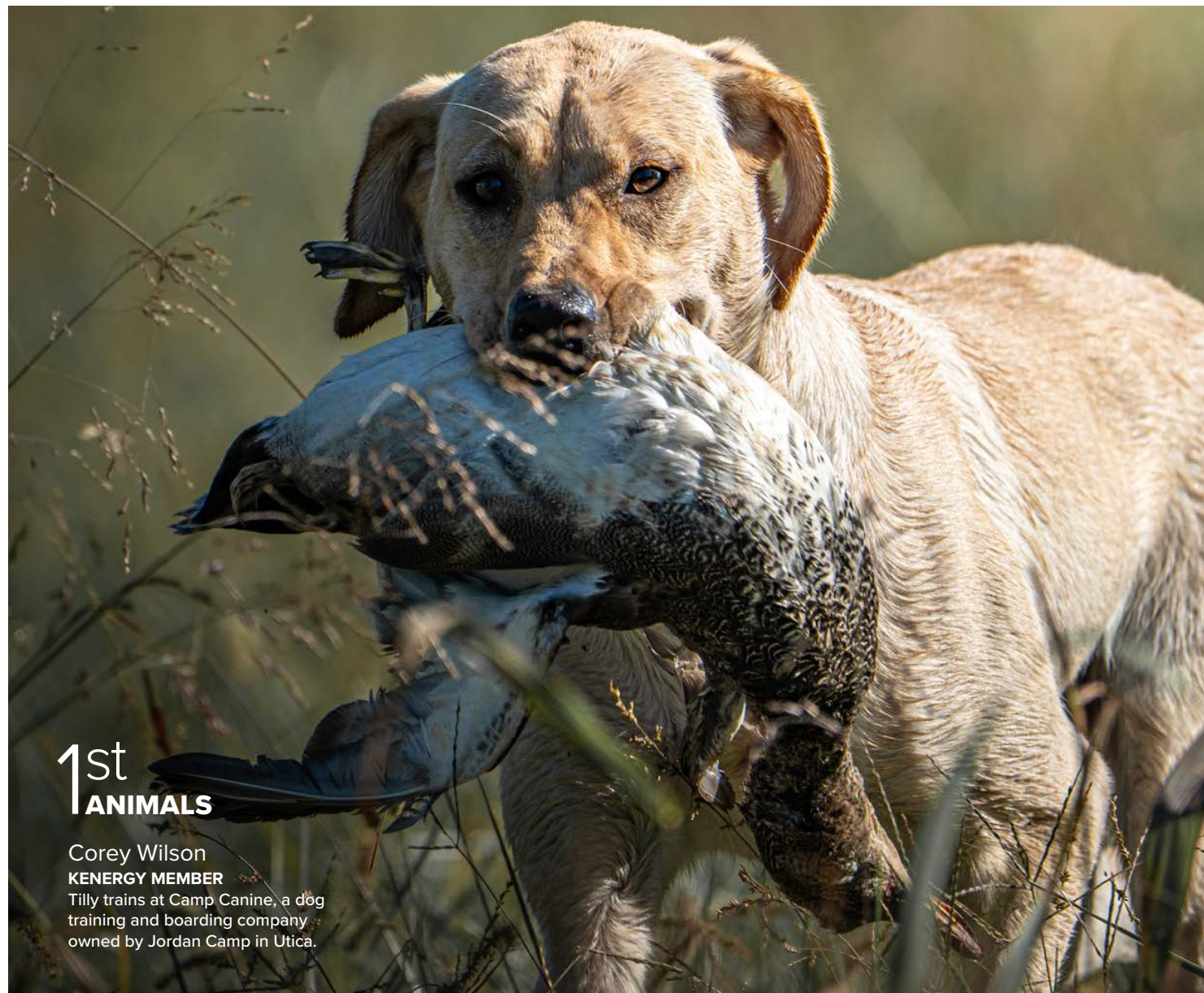
Tim Curtsinger

**SALT RIVER ELECTRIC MEMBER**

Chained Rock in Pine Mountain State  
Resort Park offers a stunning view.

### FROM THE EXUBERANT TO THE SOMBER,

entries in this year's *Kentucky Living* Photo Contest blew us away. You've documented the people, places, landscapes, plants, animals and more that make our state uniquely breathtaking. Thanks to all who entered—more than 2,000 of you—and congratulations to our winners. Remember to check out the additional People's Choice contest at [KentuckyLiving.com](https://KentuckyLiving.com).

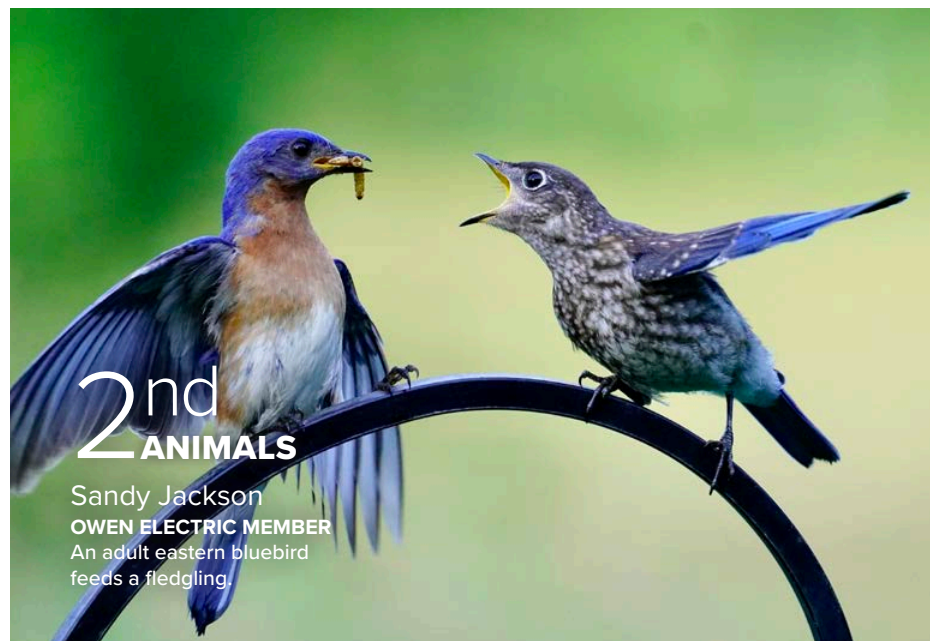


## 1st ANIMALS

Corey Wilson

**KENERGY MEMBER**

Tilly trains at Camp Canine, a dog training and boarding company owned by Jordan Camp in Utica.



## 2nd ANIMALS

Sandy Jackson

**OWEN ELECTRIC MEMBER**

An adult eastern bluebird feeds a fledgling.





## 3<sup>rd</sup> ANIMALS

**Skylar Dickerson**  
**GRAYSON RECC MEMBER**

During a farm-sitting experience in Fleming County, Skylar got in some photography time as well, capturing these adorable donkeys.



## 1<sup>st</sup> PLANTS & FLOWERS

**Rylan Meadows**  
**CLARK ENERGY MEMBER**

A clouded sulphur butterfly sunbathes on wild daisies.



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# 1<sup>st</sup> KENTUCKY TRAVELS

Richena Holbert

SALT RIVER ELECTRIC MEMBER

The Taylor County fair featured a rodeo show, where this rodeo clown entertained the audience.



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## 2<sup>nd</sup> KENTUCKY TRAVELS

Elliot Gilfix

A puddle on brick-paved St. Clair Street in downtown Frankfort reflects one of the most charming state capital cities in the country.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> KENTUCKY TRAVELS

Larry Dixon

FLEMING-MASON ENERGY MEMBER

Blevins Grocery in downtown Preston serves the world's finest bologna sandwich, Dixon says.



## 1<sup>st</sup> PEOPLE

Shawn Hale

MEADE COUNTY RECC MEMBER

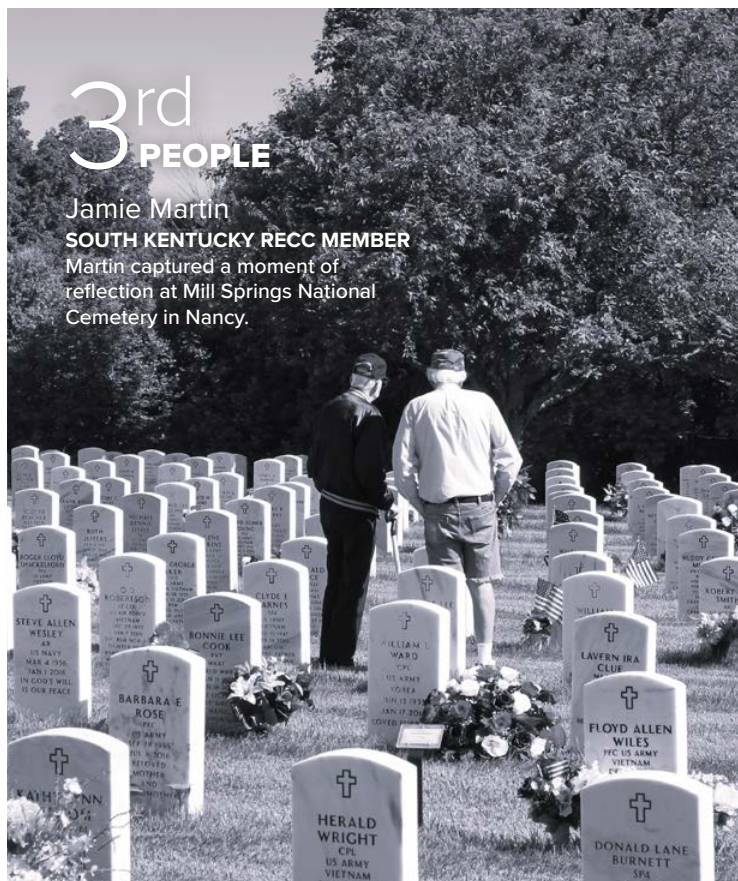
Four kids play pool at SkateLand in Hardin County.





## 3<sup>rd</sup> PEOPLE

Jamie Martin  
SOUTH KENTUCKY RECC MEMBER  
Martin captured a moment of reflection at Mill Springs National Cemetery in Nancy.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> PEOPLE

Aaron Crawford  
Remy enjoys an outdoor chess set near a community garden in Berea.

# Kentucky Living 2026 PHOTO CONTEST CALENDAR



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**KentuckyLiving**



# OFF BOOK

Public libraries offer resources, connections and creativity

BY GLENYE CAIN OAKFORD

The morning after historic flooding devastated Hazard in July 2022, Sheila Lindsay took a four-wheel drive vehicle to reach the Perry County Public Library on Black Gold Boulevard. The library director found a sodden scene: several inches of water had swept through the building, soaking the walls and saturating library materials. The cleanup, she knew, would be extensive and would take time.

But Lindsay knew the damage was even worse for many other Perry County residents, who had lost family members, friends and homes. They would need support immediately and for the long recovery ahead.

So rather than shut down, the library became a lifeline.

"We knew we had to help, so we set up a makeshift desk in the foyer and would offer services until we could do more after the first week of mucking, cleaning and initial construction," Lindsay recalls.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Red Cross set up temporary offices in the library, and library staff—many of whom were dealing with their own losses—worked to assess and fill the community's immediate needs. The parking lot served as a base for first responders.

The library building provided a cooling and charging station, snacks and meals, around-the-clock Wi-Fi access, and printing and faxing for FEMA and Red Cross forms. Library staff created a reference station in the front lobby and helped connect residents to services they needed.



The Lexington Public Library's Northside branch in Lexington. Photo: Jeremy Midkiff

The library's auditorium hosted 24-hour movie screenings for community members who needed a mental break from the trauma and exhaustion. The library even offered showers, a welcome relief for flood survivors and workers who were spending hours scouring mud and tearing out damaged properties in the summer heat.

"We had our outreach librarian and bookmobile librarian out in the county daily, offering water, snacks and activity care packages to anyone who wanted one," Lindsay says. "If you had asked me if I think these services are important before the flooding, I would have said yes. However, now I would say they are critical."

## Meeting community needs

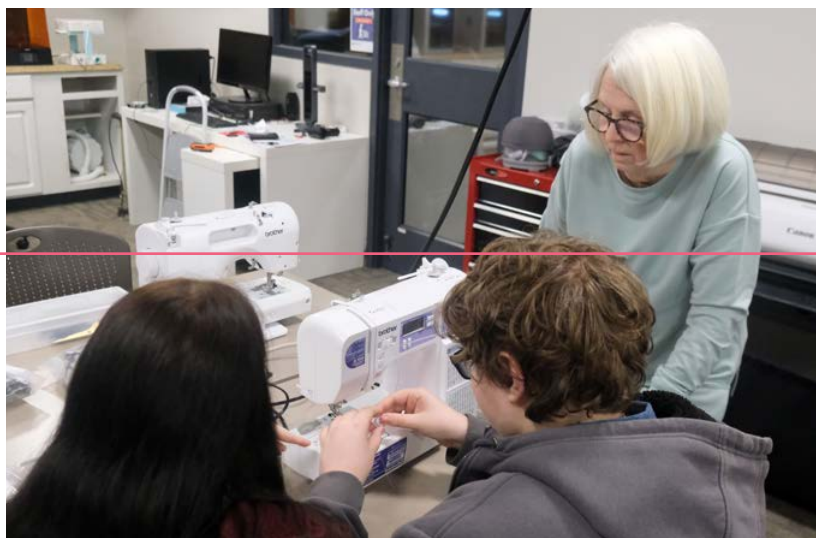
The Perry County Public Library's list of post-disaster services seems extraordinary. But libraries across the commonwealth provide a surprising range of free community services every day. Need job search assistance, tech training, genealogy resources, garden seeds or power tools? Start by asking your local library.

"It's about connecting people with the resources and information they need to improve their lives," says Natalie Ruppert, who manages Kenton County Public Library's career and job services division.

Their role as community hubs, many library staff say, is simply an extension of libraries' broad mission to connect people to information and knowledge.

"I think one of the things that sort of makes expanding our role essential is that we are for everyone," says Christina Cornelison, executive director of the Madison County Public Library in Richmond and Berea. "We like to focus on literacy of all sorts, all those things that improve the quality of life for people."

The Madison County Public Library has a creative studio, sewing and embroidery machines, a laser



Library customers learn to sew using the sewing machines in Madison County Public Library's MakerLab in Richmond. Machines are available for individual reservation, and the library also offers regular sewing programs for all ages. Photo: Sydney Mundy



Perry County Public Library Director Sheila Lindsay. Photo: Ashley Feltner

engraver, a genealogy program, financial coaching and more. On its website, the library also has a Community Resources tab that connects residents with directories for telehealth, disability, child care and other resources.

The Kenton County Public Library boasts a makerspace for everything from button making to book binding. If your child has trouble with a math problem, call the library: it has live homework help, too. It lends tools for home repair, garden work and building projects, thanks to the Empower Tools program, a partnership between the library and The Center for Great Neighborhoods.

Local connections like that, and a network of library volunteers, ensure library patrons are getting trustworthy information and services, library staff point out. And they expand libraries' ability to offer more to the populations they serve. Cornelison says her library gets a better idea of what the community needs from relationships with community partners.

## CONNECT ONLINE

Kenton County Public Library: [kentonlibrary.org](http://kentonlibrary.org)

Lexington Public Library: [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org)

Madison County Public Library: [www.madisonlibrary.org](http://www.madisonlibrary.org)

Perry County Public Library: [perrycountylibrary.org](http://perrycountylibrary.org)

“We’re in constant conversation with community partners, with our elected officials. I try to meet with our county judge at least once a year, just to ask what’s going on, what’s happening in the county, what are the county’s goals? And how does the library fit in with that?” she says. “It’s less about trying to reinvent the wheel or following trends and more about listening to what the community is actually saying that they want from us, and how can we match that.”

A meeting of the Northern Kentucky Accountability Group at the Kenton County Public Library. The group provides job search support to professionals in career transition. Photo: Ben Gastright

## Bridging the digital divide

Libraries’ many free, accessible services also help build lasting community resilience, especially in traditionally underserved areas.

That was one of the priorities when the Lexington Public Library opened its new Northside branch in 2008 with a state-of-the-art digital center and tech classes. The center includes rows of iMac computers, a podcast recording studio and a green screen video recording room—giving library patrons a chance not just to work on personal projects, but also to learn or strengthen highly marketable digital skills or even start their own businesses.

“We have folks who run small businesses where they do photography for families,” says Brian Hocesvar, the



## Job hunting? Start at the library

In northern Kentucky, among its many other programs, the Kenton County Public Library has developed an entire division—including four career navigators on staff—to help its patrons find jobs and launch careers.

“We have over 1,000 people attend our job search skills programs every month,” says Natalie Ruppert, manager of the library’s career and job services division, which offers more than 40 classes a month.

Other services provided help, but they weren’t free, she explains. “I also worry that when people lose their jobs and they’re looking, there is a lot of fraud out there. I wanted people to feel like they were getting excellent information from

public libraries that they could trust, but also that they would be in a safe environment and they didn’t have to worry.”

The Kenton County Public Library programs cover everything from resume writing and interview preparation to job fair navigation and using LinkedIn. The library offers specialty help for people facing barriers to employment, such as refugees, the formerly incarcerated, people with disabilities or older adults returning to work.

Kenton County also was one of the first libraries in the country to hire dedicated career navigators who are trained to work directly with local employers and can help job seekers identify open positions, build skills and prep for applications and interviews.

Northern Kentucky Accountability Group is one of its programs that has had a significant impact. It provides weekly job search support to professionals in career transition, whether after a layoff or business closure or because they want to change to different work. Each session includes speakers, peer support groups and personalized coaching. The group’s 750 alumni also help open doors at their new places of employment, including Fidelity Investments, Proctor & Gamble, universities and small businesses.

Not in Kenton County? Your library likely offers job search and skill-building assistance, too. As a librarian would say: check it out!

## An open book

State and local groups serve as resources for public libraries—and for the people who use them. Learn more at [KentuckyLiving.com](http://KentuckyLiving.com)

Northside branch manager. “They use our green screen room to do portrait photography.”

Access to these technologies also narrows the digital skills gap and lifts whole communities.

“Public libraries everywhere are doing a huge amount of work to help people over the digital divide,” Hocevar says. “This is the skill set that it takes to keep learning and advance as a contemporary human being. And libraries do it, I think in part because it fits neatly into our mission of supporting that lifelong learning.”

Among its many other offerings, including traditional book lending, the Northside branch also partnered with God’s Pantry to operate a food pantry that resembles a small shop, where patrons can select the items they need. Open five days a week, the pantry serves about 200 families a week, Hocevar says.

“We want folks to understand the services they can receive at the library,” he says. “But we also want them to understand the importance of the services that others in the community are receiving and how much those services can serve to lift up the folks around them and make Lexington a stronger community.”

At its heart, it’s that sense of public service that has inspired libraries’ expansion says Lindsay, the Perry County Public Library director: “We are here to serve you. Everything we do from our databases, bookmobile services to notary services and story time is to offer services our community needs.” **KL**





## Patriotic push mowers

"It's fine art, is what it is," Daryl Diddle says, laughing.

Every July 4 since 1991—weather permitting—neighborhood men in shorts and sneakers, patriotic ties and John Deere ballcaps have performed a synchronized routine with push mowers to the accompaniment of Sousa marches during Wilmore's annual Festival of the 4th parade. "We probably know 12 or 14 moves," Diddle says.

The Wilmore Lawnmower Brigade is goofy. It's self-deprecating. And it's endearingly earnest.

Founded by Asbury University band professor Lynn Cooper, the brigade has

become a staple of Wilmore's Fourth of July celebration. This year, they've been invited to march in the Maysville Veterans Day Parade, as well, sponsored by the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center. Visit [KentuckyLiving.com](http://KentuckyLiving.com) for more photos and links to Wilmore's Festival of the 4th.

"It is sort of a cross between a marching band and Saturday chores," says Diddle, the brigade's "street commander" and senior pastor at Wilmore Free Methodist Church. The brigade, which rehearses twice during the week before the parade, has had members as young as 12, and as old as 75—and it welcomes new members who meet a few important requirements.

"All you need is a push mower, a little coordination, and a very good sense of humor," Diddle says. "You have to be able to laugh at yourself."

The brigade draws members who don't often find themselves in front of a crowd.

"They are not typical performers," Diddle says. "I think they just have a really good sense of humor, and they don't mind people laughing at them, and making people happy."

Humor makes it all work, alchemizing the ordinary stuff of life into a belly laugh. You might say the Wilmore Lawnmower Brigade is the dad joke incarnate—fine art, indeed.

Story: Joel Sams

Photo: Jolea Brown

# Eye Doctor Helps Tennessee Legally Blind To See



High Technology For Low Vision Patients Allows Many To Drive Again



For many patients with macular degeneration and other vision related conditions, the loss of central vision detail also signals the end to one of the last bastions of independence: driving. A Lebanon optometrist, Dr. James Gillispie, is using miniaturized telescopes that are mounted in glasses to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye diseases.

Imagine a pair of glasses that can improve your vision enough to change your life. If you're a low vision patient, you've probably not only imagined them, but you have been searching for them. Bioptic telescopes may be the breakthrough in optical technology that will give you the independence you've been looking for. Patients with vision in the 20/200 range can many times be improved to 20/50 or better.

Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness and vision loss in people over 50. Despite this, most adults are not familiar with the condition. As many as 25% of those over the age of 50 have some degree of macular degeneration. The macula is only one small part of the retina; however, it is the most sensitive and gives us sharp central vision. When it

degenerates, macular degeneration leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision, making it difficult or impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

Nine out of ten people who have macular degeneration have the dry form. New research suggests vitamins can help. The British medical journal BMC Ophthalmology recently reported that 56% of patients treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins experienced improved vision after 6 months.

While age is the most significant risk factor for developing the disease,



*A scene as it might be viewed by a person with age-related macular degeneration.*

heredity, smoking, cardiovascular disease, and high blood pressure have also been identified as risk factors. Macular degeneration accounts for 90% of new legal blindness in the U.S. While there is currently no cure, promising research is being done on many fronts.

"Our job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning, especially driving," says Dr. Gillispie of Low Vision of Tennessee.

When Beth, 62, of Greenville, TN came to Low Vision of Tennessee she wanted to keep her Tennessee driver's

license and was prescribed bioptic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic farther away. Dr. Gillispie also prescribed microscope glasses for reading newspapers and menus at restaurants.

As Beth puts it, "My regular glasses didn't help too much – it was like looking through a fog. These new telescopic glasses not only allow me to read signs from a further distance, but make driving much easier. I've also used them to watch television so I don't have to sit so close. I don't know why I waited to do this; I should have come sooner."

"Bioptic telescopes can cost over \$3,000," said Dr. Gillispie. "especially if we build them with automatic sunglasses."

"The major benefit of the bioptic telescope is that the lens automatically focuses on whatever you're looking at," said Dr. Gillispie, "It's like a self-focusing camera, but much more precise."

To learn more about bioptic telescopes or to schedule a consultation with Dr. Gillispie, give us a call at (615) 948-9185. You can also visit our website at:

[www.lowvisiontn.com](http://www.lowvisiontn.com)



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**(615) 948-9185**  
**James Gillispie, O.D.**

404 N. Castle Heights Ave.  
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# Butterfly blossoms

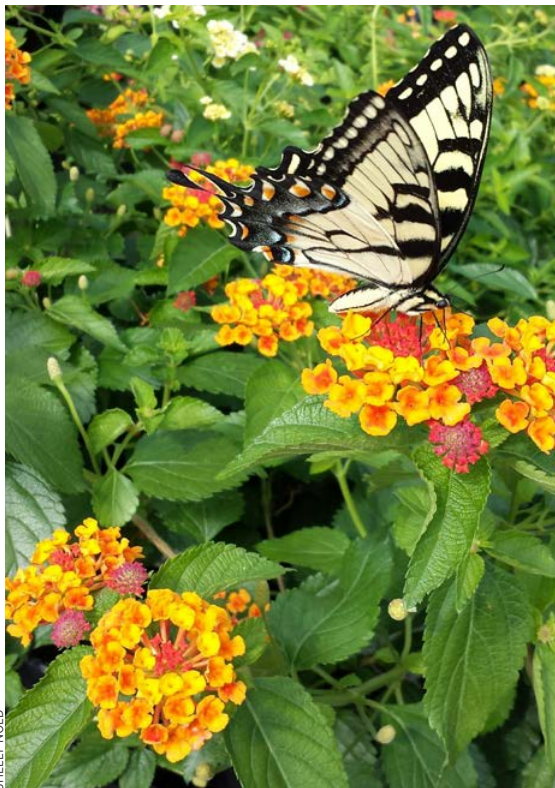
*Hardy and colorful lantana*

**POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY GARDEN PLANTS** are becoming more popular each year. Lantana combines pollinator benefits with deer and rabbit resistance, as well as bright blossoms that are highly attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds.

In our area, lantana is grown as a summer annual flower. It can be clumping or trailing, and works well in the ground, a container or a hanging basket. Abundant small, flat-topped clusters of tubular flowers serve as the perfect landing pad for butterflies and pollinators. The clusters of tubular flowers also offer a preferred style flower for hummingbirds to feed on. Its long bloom time makes it a good seasonal support plant for our pollinators.

Flower color can be solid white, cream, yellow, pink, orange or red, as well as multi-colored. Many varieties are now sterile like the Bloomify or Luscious series. Many modern lantana varieties produce very little seed, which is important—because the unripe berries of lantana are poisonous. This also helps in areas where lantana is winter-hardy and can be weedy or invasive.

Lantana grows best in full sun, or with a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight. It is heat- and drought-resistant once established.



SHELLY NOLD

This vigorous naturally prolific bloomer does not need to be fertilized to perform well. As an annual plant, it can grow anywhere from 1 to 3 feet tall, depending on the variety.

Adding just a few lantana plants to your garden each year will not only boost your summer color show but will also be an important crop of nectar for our winged friends. If you're not into annual or container flowers, consider adding a few into your landscape or perennial flower border, and you will be rewarded with four to five months of flowering. **KL**

**SHELLY NOLD** is a horticulturist and owner of The Plant Kingdom. Send stories and ideas to her at The Plant Kingdom, 1000 E Market St., Louisville, KY 40206.

## ASK THE gardener



*Why shouldn't bluebells be harvested from the wild?—Alan Adkisson*

**A** Digging up Virginia bluebells, or any native plant in the wild, is not recommended for several reasons. Native plants should remain where you find them to protect and preserve the ecosystems in which they have naturalized. Removing them not only reduces the number of plants, but also allows space for unwanted, potentially invasive species to take root and threaten healthy wild populations. There is also no guarantee that the plants will survive once they have been transplanted. There are many benefits to adding native wildflowers to your landscape, but it is best to purchase from a reputable source.

» Angie Oakley



LYNNE/ADOBE STOCK

**Have a gardening question?**

Go to [KentuckyLiving.com](https://KentuckyLiving.com), click on Home & Garden, then "Ask the Gardener."

READER  
recipe

A slice of the season

## Kentucky Heirloom Tomato Tart

Submitted by Millie McGlothlin

Every summer, Millie's family requests a fresh tomato pie. This Heirloom Tomato Tart is one of their favorites recipes.

## Tart Crust

1 ½ C all-purpose flour

¼ tsp salt

½ C cold butter, cubed

3 to 4 Tbsp ice water

## Cheese Filling

11 oz goat cheese, softened

½ C heavy cream

3 C Kentucky-grown heirloom cherry tomatoes, halved, or full-size tomatoes, sliced

Salt and pepper to taste

## Garnish

Fresh basil leaves

Sea salt flakes

To make tart crust, pulse flour, salt and butter in a food processor until crumbly. Add water, 1 tablespoon at a time, until dough forms. Press into 9-inch tart shell, prick with fork, and chill 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 400°. After tart has chilled, bake on baking sheet 20–25 minutes until golden. If bubbles form, prick with fork. Cool tart shell completely. While tart cools, beat goat cheese and cream until light and fluffy. Season with salt and pepper. To assemble, spread whipped goat cheese into the cooled crust. Arrange halved or sliced tomatoes on top, sprinkle with sea salt and garnish with fresh basil. Serves 8.

## Stars, stripes and seasonal delights

Savor summer with these festive recipes

**THE FOURTH OF JULY** is one of my favorite holidays—the perfect time to slow down and soak in the best of summer. It's a day meant for easy food that keeps you out of the kitchen and in the moment. Whether you're hosting a family barbecue or spending the day by the pool, having a mix of simple, crowd-pleasing dishes is key.

This month, enjoy soft and chewy cake mix cookies, bursting with patriotic color. They come together in less than 30 minutes, using just two bowls. Pair them with a Kentucky heirloom tomato tart. With a flaky crust, ripe local tomatoes and a cheesy filling, this tart is an easy yet elegant appetizer, highlighting the season's best produce. I know y'all will love them!

## Red, White and Blue Cake Mix Cookies

2 eggs

⅓ C coconut or canola oil

1 Tbsp vanilla

½ tsp salt

1 box white cake mix,  
such as Duncan Hines4 oz red, white and blue sprinkles  
(jimmies or nonpareils)

Preheat oven to 350°. Add eggs, oil, vanilla and salt to medium bowl and whisk until combined. Sift cake mix into egg mixture and mix with a spatula until everything is incorporated. Add sprinkles to a small, shallow bowl. Scoop out a dough ball using a 2-ounce cookie scoop, then roll it in sprinkles, making sure it is entirely covered. Place dough on parchment-lined cookie sheet, and repeat until all dough is used. Bake 11–12 minutes. Remove and let rest on the cookie sheet for 10 minutes, then transfer to cooling rack. Yields 20 cookies.

**HEATHER BILYEU**, raised in southern Kentucky, is the owner and voice behind the food blog, *Fueling a Southern Soul*.

SEE  
VIDEOSat KentuckyLiving.  
com/CookGo to [KentuckyLiving.com/submit-a-recipe](https://KentuckyLiving.com/submit-a-recipe)



## Family recipe

*Freshness is the secret ingredient at Jot India in Newport*

JOEL SAMS



**WHEN AMANDEEP SINGH'S** family came to the U.S. on November 28, 2011, they had \$400 to their name. His dad, Gurbachan, who spent the 12 years prior navigating the immigration process, began working in a friend's restaurant—but he dreamed of one day opening his own.

That dream came true in 2020, over evening tea, when Amandeep's uncle offered to help the family start a business. Jot India opened in Newport in 2021, and Amandeep, just out of high school, took over management.

Anchored by Gurbachan's recipes, the restaurant quickly earned a following—and national recognition with a No. 48 spot on Yelp's Top 100 U.S. Restaurants ranking in 2023. A Florence location opened that same year, and a third, in Cincinnati, opened in May.

The most popular dish, Amandeep says, is chicken tikka masala—chicken simmered in a creamy tomato sauce. Other favorites include kadai ginger chicken, lamb curry, tandoori chicken and garlic naan.

"We really make sure that everything is extremely fresh," Amandeep says. "Honestly, that's the secret recipe." Customers also note the restaurant's impeccable cleanliness, friendly staff and consistent quality.

"From day one, it's just been about giving 100%," Amandeep says. "My parents, my sister and I, we've poured everything into this place—our time, energy, love."

Now managing three locations at just 23, Amandeep says he doesn't dwell on the future—but he does have a goal.

"I want to retire my parents," he said in April. "My dad has worked his butt off for where he came from. ... There was no chance, no way to be here, and to be in this position, where we're getting ready to open our third location."

Dine at Jot India's original location, 1709 Monmouth Street C in Newport, or visit locations in Florence and Cincinnati. **KL**



## Jot India's Mango Lassi

*Serves 2*

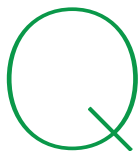
**1 C mango pulp (see note)**  
**1 C plain whole milk yogurt**  
**2–3 Tbsp. sugar, to taste**  
**½ C cold water or ice (as needed)**

Blend mango pulp, yogurt and sugar until smooth and creamy. Add cold water or ice to adjust thickness as desired. Taste and adjust sweetness as needed. Serve chilled.

Note: Look for canned Alphonso or Kesar mango pulp, available in some grocery stores, international food markets or online. You can also make your own by blending ripe mango pieces in a blender until smooth.



# Efficiency tips for older homes



*How do I improve the efficiency of my older home while keeping its charm?*

## MIRANDA BOUTELLE

writes on energy efficiency for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

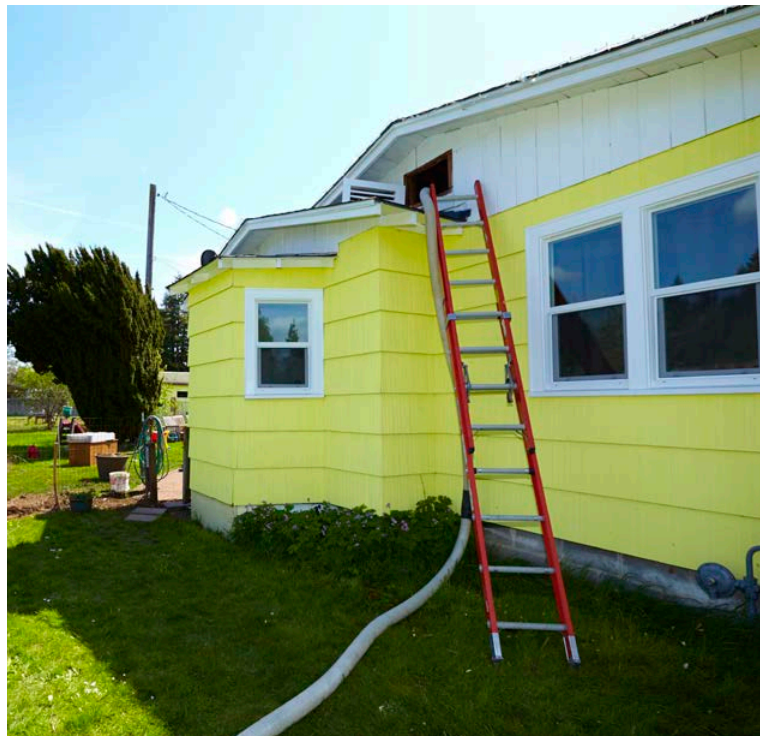
**A** Older homes don't have to be inefficient. Show your home some love and invest in energy efficient upgrades while retaining its charm.

Start by prioritizing the invisible upgrades that make your home more comfortable and efficient. It's not as exciting as new countertops, but air sealing and insulation can save you money that can be applied to aesthetic improvements.

Many older homes are not properly insulated. Beyond sealing your home and keeping outdoor air from seeping in, insulation reduces outdoor noise, makes your home quieter and improves your overall comfort.

Always properly air seal before you insulate. Older homes with pocket doors, coved ceilings, dumbwaiters, doors to attic spaces and laundry chutes allow indoor air to escape through the cavities, gaps and cracks.

Seal any framing features that cause drafts. Balloon



framing is a type of construction where wall studs run all the way from the foundation to the roof, allowing air to flow freely through those spaces. Second floors with knee wall attics on both sides are notorious for air leakage.

## Insulating walls

Dense-packed cellulose or closed cell foam insulation can be sprayed into exterior walls. Skilled contractors can remove pieces of siding

and drill holes to fill the wall cavities from the outside of the home. For brick or stone homes, holes can be drilled from the inside and then patched and painted. Insulating walls from the inside of the home requires more time and effort in preparation and cleanup, but having well-insulated walls is worth it.

For safety purposes, knob and tube wiring—commonly used from the early 1880s to the 1930s with no grounding wire—should be replaced prior to insulating walls and attics. **KL**

▲  
Prioritize the invisible upgrades that make your home more comfortable and efficient, such as adding blown-in insulation to your attic. Photo: Bonneville Power Administration

## NEW WINDOWS?

People often think new windows are the best way to improve a home's efficiency. But before investing in new windows for efficiency, try air sealing and insulation first. Then consider storm windows to keep the charm of the original windows, such as leaded glass and stained-glass windows in good condition.

# Fly flags safely

*Be patriotic and proactive*

**INDEPENDENCE DAY** is a good time to revisit flagpole safety. Show your patriotism this season by treating the American flag with respect and by observing both national codes and safety guidelines.

## Flagpole safety

Being patriotic is important, but so is being safe when working with flagpoles. Whether you are installing a fiberglass or a metal flagpole, follow these tips to be safe:

- Check local regulations and building codes before installing a flagpole and call 811 before digging.
- Be overly cautious when working around power lines. Maintain at least a 20-foot clearance around power lines and any nearby trees. Consider both the flagpole length and the flag size for the 20-foot clearance.
- If a pole comes in contact with a power line, serious injury or death can occur to anyone holding the pole or standing nearby.
- Any object touching an overhead power line could serve as a conduit for the electricity should it reach the ground, including humans.

## Flag guidelines

The United States Flag Code is a federal law that establishes advisory rules for display and care of the national flag. Here are a few of the guidelines it lays out.

- The flag is usually flown between sunrise and sunset. It's a sign of respect to bring it inside at night. However, the flag can be flown overnight, as long as it's illuminated during the hours of darkness.
- The flag should never be used for advertising or used as a costume or athletic uniform. A flag patch, however, is appropriate for military, fire, police and patriotic organization uniforms. When a lapel flag pin is worn, it should be on the left lapel near the heart.
- When a flag has become too worn to display, it should be disposed of "in a dignified way, preferably by burning," according to the code. For additional guidelines, visit [usc.house.gov](https://usc.house.gov) and search "U.S. Flag Code." **KL**



### *Flags and overhead power lines*

A typical residential flagpole that is installed in the ground is 20 feet to 25 feet tall. When using a 20-foot pole with a recommended maximum flag size of 3-by-5 feet, the pole should be no closer than 45 feet to any overhead power lines.

If you are using a 25-foot pole with a recommended maximum flag size of 4-by-6 feet, the pole should be no closer than 51 feet from any overhead power lines.



**BO MCGUFFEY**  
is Safety/Loss Control  
Coordinator at  
Inter-County Energy

**YEARS AT THE  
CO-OP: 21**

#### **WHEN I'M NOT WORKING I'M:**

Enjoying family trips  
with my wife and  
three kids, shooting  
my bow, turkey hunt-  
ing and exercising.

◀ Be aware of surround-  
ings when flying flags.  
Maintain at least a  
20-foot clearance  
around power lines  
and nearby trees.  
Photo: Wade Harris

# Swimming safety

*Tips to stay safe in the water*

## THE TEMPERATURE IS

**RISING**, and everyone is heading to the pool, lake or beach to cool off. But did you know the color of your swimsuit plays a big part in water safety?

Experts are urging parents and caregivers to avoid putting their kids in blue and green swimsuits. Even in shallow water, blue and green swimsuits are very difficult to see. Drowning can happen very quickly and quietly, and visibility is important when supervising kids around water. Stick with bright, neon colors for swimsuits, pool toys and flotation devices.

Here are some other tips to keep kids safe in and around water this summer:

- **Use designated swimming areas and recreational areas whenever possible.** Look for posted signs about open water hazards. Also look for signs that say when lifeguards will be present.
- **Avoid distractions when your child is in or around water.** Drowning is often silent and can occur in minutes. Put away phones, books and magazines.
- **Choose a water watcher.** When there are several adults present, alternate who is responsible for watching children in or near the water.
- **Keep your ears open as well as your eyes.** If your



- child gets quiet, find out the reason.
- **Wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket when boating or participating in other water activities.** Choose a life jacket that is right for your child's weight and water activity. Weak swimmers and children who cannot swim should wear life jackets when they are in or near water.

- **Learn CPR and basic water rescue skills.** It is important to know how to respond in an emergency without putting yourself at risk of drowning. Local chapters of organizations such as the Red Cross offer CPR and water safety courses.

Remember, drowning doesn't look like drowning. In TV and movies, a

drowning person waves their hands and calls for help. In reality, drowning is silent. A drowning person may appear to be relaxed and quietly treading water. If you see someone with their head tilted back and they look like they are climbing an invisible ladder, call for help immediately. **KL**

**SHERRI HANNAN** is coordinator for Safe Kids Fayette County.



# On the banks of the Ohio

Discover Kentucky's small-town riverside gems

BY MEGHAN CAIN-DAVIS



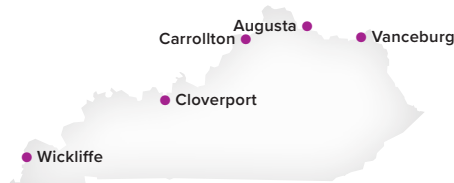
Located at the tallest point in Carroll County, the General Butler State Resort Park Overlook is known as "The Lookout" to locals. It's a perfect spot to watch the sunset over the Ohio River Valley. Photo: Carrollton/Carroll County Tourism

**FOLLOW THE OHIO RIVER** and discover Kentucky's welcoming and resilient river towns. These locations along Kentucky's far western and northern border have unique histories and personalities, offering recreation, dining, cultural activities and a unique window into the importance of the river—not only in the past, but in the present.

## Wickliffe

This journey begins in western Kentucky. At the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, Wickliffe has a layered history, says Carla Hildebrand, park manager for the Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site.

On the first high bluff and overlook, the Wickliffe Mounds is an archaeological site of the Mississippian Native American culture, which the park dates



as early as 1100 A.D. Today, it's a state park with a museum, walking paths and beautiful picnic spaces.

"It's a unique glimpse of Kentucky's past, and also what we have in the present," Hildebrand says. "The support of visitors means everything to our mission of preserving this for future generations."

Around the river bend on the second bluff is Fort Jefferson Hill Park and the 95-foot Memorial Cross, marking a site that was important in the Revolutionary and Civil wars, as well as the Lewis and

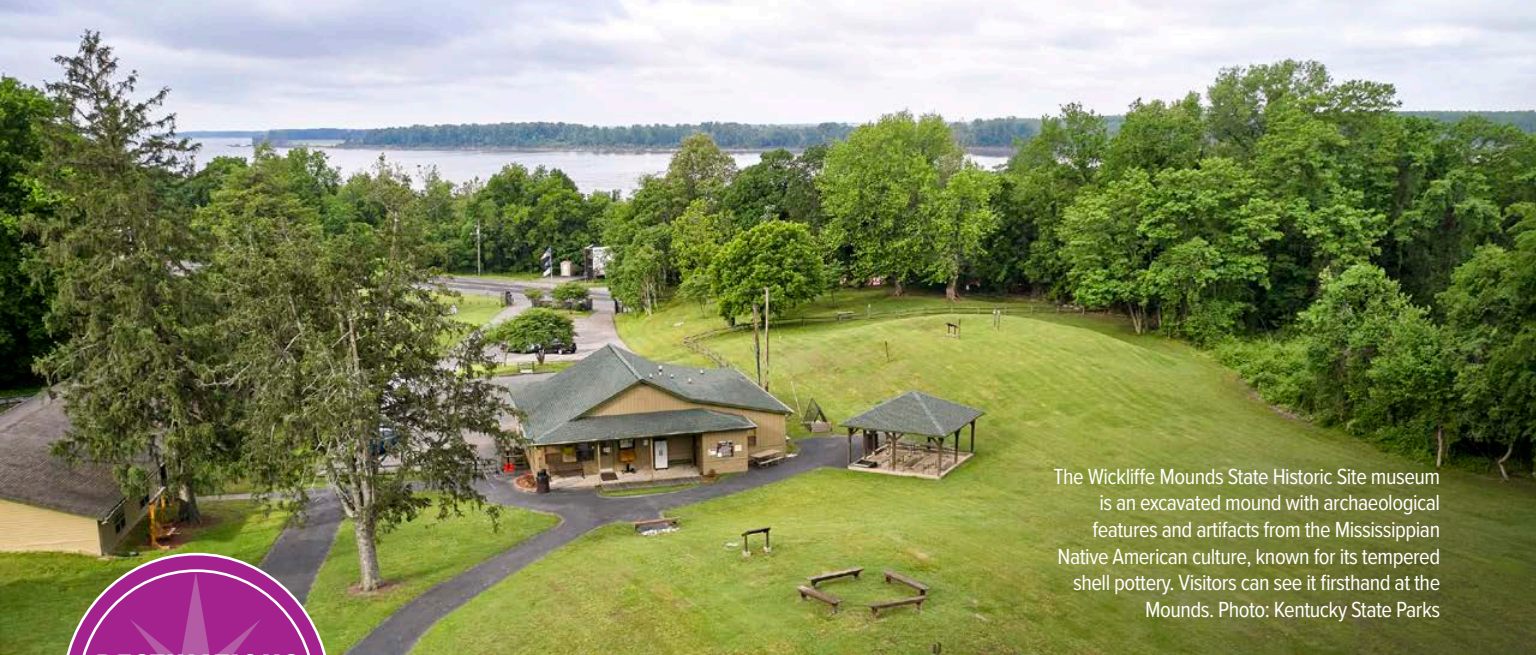
Clark expedition. Visitors enjoy a paved walking trail with views overlooking the river confluence.

"There's a clear distinction between the rivers," says Lindsay Bowles, a Wickliffe native and director of the Kentucky Great River Road, an economic development agency. "The Ohio is more blue, and the Mississippi is more brown."

Bowles says the Ohio River has always played a vital role in the development of Wickliffe, but the people in the community are the ones who make it thrive.

## Cloverport

Resting in a bend of the Ohio River, Cloverport is the perfect place to enjoy some rest and relaxation, says Mayor Candy Weatherholt, a consumer-member of Meade County RECC.



The Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site museum is an excavated mound with archaeological features and artifacts from the Mississippian Native American culture, known for its tempered shell pottery. Visitors can see it firsthand at the Mounds. Photo: Kentucky State Parks



*Follow the Ohio River and discover these small-town northern Kentucky gems. Savor their history, culture and food at each stop.*

## Featured River Towns

### Wickliffe

(wickliffe.ky.gov). Start your day at 4th Street Coffee Company, then visit Fort Jefferson Hill Park and the Memorial Cross on Fort Jefferson Hill Road. Visit Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site (parks.ky.gov) at 94 Green St., open April 1–October 31, Wednesday–Sunday (museum: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 kids 5–15); grounds open for walking 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday–Friday, (closed state holidays). Tour the Kentucky Veteran and Patriot Museum, Thursday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Eat at Kentucky Hillbilly BBQ, open daily 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (cash/check only) or Pee Dee's Food Mart, Monday–Saturday, 4:30 a.m.–9 p.m.

### Cloverport

(cloverport.ky.gov). Stroll the downtown riverwalk and grab lunch at Doc's River Dogs or Bert's Rivertown Grill, both on West Main Street. Tour the Cloverport Museum, 410 E. Houston St., open seasonally on Sundays, 2–4 p.m. (free admission). Visit River's Edge Art Gallery, 223 W. Main St., and take a picture in front of Cloverport's mural. Have a drink at Candy's Mile Marker 711 or Slow Time Bar (full bar service), both on West Main Street.

### Carrollton

(visitcarrolltonky.com). Get your caffeine fix at Hos Coffee, 1207 Highland Ave., then walk through Point Park, snap some pictures at the lookout, rent a kayak and spend some time on the river. For an overnight stay, visit Two Rivers Campground (2riverscampground.com) or rent a lodge room or cottage at General Butler State Resort Park. Eat at Welch's Riverside Restaurant, 505 Main St. #1, open 6 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday–Saturday; 6 a.m.–3 p.m. Sunday—or Cooper's Restaurant, 1420 Gillock Ave., 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Monday–Friday.

### Augusta

(augustaky.gov). Start with breakfast and shopping at the Augusta General Store, open daily 6 a.m.–7 p.m. Tour the Rosemary Clooney Museum, then learn about local artists at the Augusta Art Guild. Eat at Tabletop Traditions, 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Tuesday–Sunday, or Carota's Pizza, open daily 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Both are on Main Street. Enjoy a drink at Baker-Bird Winery and B. Bird Distillery or at Augusta Distillery. Watch the sunset on the O'Neill Riverwalk and finish up with dinner at the Augusta Pub, 11 a.m.–11 p.m. Tuesday–Sunday.

### Vanceburg

(cityofvanceburg.com). Start your morning at Veteran's Memorial Park, then enjoy Vanceburg murals and the military hero banners around town. Walk along the Vanceburg Historical Walking Trail, stopping at the George Morgan Thomas House and the Train Depot (now a museum). Eat breakfast or lunch at Osman's Pharmacy, 89 Second St., 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday–Friday. Visit Scott Park On the River, 121 Front St., and end your trip with dinner at Riverbend Pub & Grill, 229 Main St., open Tuesday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–8–9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.–1 a.m. (next day); Saturday, 9 a.m.–1 a.m. Closed Sunday–Monday.

## Other river towns to explore

### Uniontown

A great destination for fishing, boating and good food. River Park at the end of State Route 130 is a local park for fishing and picnics with a boat dock and ramp. Uniontown Ferry Boat Ramp on Mill Street offers another Ohio River launch area. Stop by The 822 Diner at 800 3rd St., open 5:30 a.m.–9 p.m. daily, for pizza, burgers, salads and more.

### Maysville

A multitude of activities for visitors awaits, from handcrafted jewelry and local art at the EAT (Exquisite Art Treasures) Gallery to bourbon tours and tastings at The Old Pogue Distillery and Old Pogue Experience. Fish, picnic, swim and play tennis or pickleball at Maysville-Mason County Recreation Park, or hike at Cummins Nature Preserve.

### West Point

This Hardin County town is full of history. Visit the West Point Kentucky History Museum, as well as Fort Duffield Park and Civil War Historic Site, which was built in 1861. The site stands 300 feet above West Point, offering views of the town and Ohio River and is open daily, 6 a.m.–8 p.m. Stop by West Point City Hall to pick up a brochure for the National Register Historic District Walking Trail, and be sure to stop at Veterans Memorial Park or West Point River Park.

### Westport

Schamback Park on the River offers a playground, a boat ramp and dock and a new pavilion—a great place in Oldham County to bring the family. Stop by at Westport Commons, 6930 Main St. to learn about Henry Bibb, a leading abolitionist and advocate for freedom, as part of part of the Kentucky Black Trailblazers Experience. Enjoy food and shopping at Knock on Wood Mercantile Café, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Tuesday–Sunday.



▲ Downtown Cloverport offers a variety of entertainment. From Slow Times Bar to River's Edge Art Gallery to Family Ties Flowers and Gifts to the new Riverside Deli, there's something for everyone downtown. Photo: City of Cloverport

The Ohio River is the city's biggest asset, she says, in addition to its resilient and determined people. Visitors can explore the town's walking trail, which follows the river and winds through downtown. There are plenty of

activities along the river, Weatherholt says, including two bars—Candy's and Slow Time Bar; Doc's River Dogs, serving all-beef hot dogs and barbecue; Family Ties Flowers & Gifts; and the Cloverport Museum, which is housed in the historic train depot.

Cloverport is undergoing a downtown revitalization, the mayor says, and residents are "determined to stay in there, hang in there and make it better."

"You look at the river, and it's just like heaven. It's beautiful. You can sit all day on the river and have a good time."

## Carrollton

Named after the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll, Carrollton is a "cozy little river town" with the "best people" says Misty Wheeler, executive director of Carrollton/Carroll County Tourism.



# celebrate



## KENTUCKY MAIN STREETS

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your summer **celebration**  
destination!



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- Beattyville
- Campbellsville
- Carrollton
- Guthrie
- Grayson

★

- LaGrange
- Maysville
- Middlesboro
- Morehead
- Murray
- Paducah

★

- Perryville
- Pikeville
- Pineville
- Salysville
- Scottsville
- Shelbyville

★

- Springfield
- Taylorsville
- Tri-Cities (Cumberland, Benham, & Lynch)
- Williamsburg







Scan & Go! 



Outdoor adventures abound. Visitors can view the Kentucky and Ohio River convergence at Point Park, then play pickleball or tennis and cool off in the splash park. New this year, visitors can rent kayaks. Two River Campgrounds is within walking distance of downtown.

Nearby General Butler State Resort Park offers lodge rooms, cottages and campgrounds with access to a lake, fishing and paddle boarding.

Wheeler recommends Welch's Riverside Restaurant, a locally owned mom-and-pop diner with beautiful river views.

"Carrollton is full of outdoor adventures. It's the perfect place to unwind and explore the Ohio and Kentucky rivers," she says.

## Augusta

Founded in 1797, Augusta has a rich history as a river port, as a 19th century wine industry hub and as a Civil War battle site. Today, with its "beautiful riverfront and the hospitality that comes

The Augusta Boat Landing at the Augusta River Park is the perfect place to enjoy Ohio River views and take a leisurely stroll. The park offers a playground, picnic areas and boat launching. Photo: Augusta/Bracken County Tourism

with it," Augusta has a little bit of everything, says Janet Hunt, director of Augusta Tourism.

Augusta General Store Restaurant on Main Street is known for its comfort home cooking and just around the corner is Riverside Drive, with its shops, the Rosemary Clooney Museum and the Augusta Art Guild.

America's oldest wine cellar, Baker-Bird Winery and B. Bird Distillery, is in Augusta. Visitors can sip bourbon barrel-aged wines as well as classics and tour the wine cellar, or sample bourbon while viewing the Ohio River at The Augusta Distillery.

No trip is complete without watching the sunset over the Ohio River. With unobstructed views and benches and picnic tables, Sunset Point is the perfect way to end an Augusta trip, Hunt says: "Augusta is relaxing to the mind, soul and body."

## Vanceburg

Vanceburg, the final stop on this journey, is a "neat little river town striving for continuous betterment," says Mayor Dane Blankenship.

KentuckyLiving.com

## Travel by water

Visit KentuckyLiving.com to learn more about the Ohio River Way, a 308-mile water trail along the Ohio River, and download the organization's Water Trail brochure, travel itineraries and event guides.

[skeeterfest.com](http://skeeterfest.com)

**Skeeter FEST** **July 12th**  
3:00-10:30 PM

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[visitbardstown.com](http://visitbardstown.com)  
[stephenfoster.com](http://stephenfoster.com)  
502.348.5971



▲ Nestled between the Ohio River and rolling hills, Vanceburg is a small river town with a big heart. Photo: City of Vanceburg

The town's Veteran's Memorial Park has beautiful river views with gazebos and benches. Scott Park includes a playground and space for family picnics. Near the park are landing docks for kayaking and canoeing.

With almost 300 military hero banners hanging downtown, Vanceburg honors its hometown military heroes in a big way.

"We have banners downtown, on Second Street, Main Street, Court Street, and even western and southern parts of town, including the state highway," Blankenship says.

Wander the Historical Walking Trail, stopping at the George Morgan Thomas House and Vanceburg Train Depot Museum. Check out Vanceburg's four murals, celebrating its personality and people.

"What we have is recreation and tourism," says Blankenship. "My goal from day one has been to promote the river." **KL**

**MEGHAN CAIN-DAVIS** is a freelance writer, mother and fitness instructor in Kentuckiana. She loves writing about her adventures in Kentucky and around the world.

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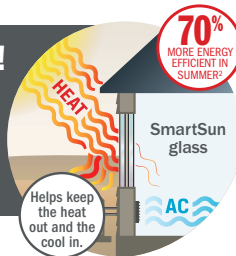
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<sup>1</sup>**DETAILS OF OFFER:** Offer expires 8/31/2025. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$379 off per window, get \$779 off per entry/patio door and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 7/1/2025 and 8/31/2025. Subject to credit approval. 12-month Promo Period: while no payments are due, interest accrues but is waived if the loan is paid in full before the Promo Period expires. Any unpaid balance owed after the Promo Period, plus accrued interest, will be paid in installments based on the terms disclosed in the customer's loan agreement. Financing is provided by various financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at [renewalbyandersen.com/license](https://renewalbyandersen.com/license). Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. <sup>†</sup>Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading national full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. <sup>††</sup>It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit [renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest](https://renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest) for details. <sup>2</sup>Values are based on comparison of Renewal by Andersen® double-hung window U-Factor to the U-Factor for clear dual-pane glass nonmetal frame default values from the 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 International Energy Conservation Code "Glazed Penetration" Default Tables. <sup>3</sup>Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. \*Renewal by Andersen® and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. © 2025 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201

<sup>†</sup>Using U.S. and imported parts.

# EVENT CALENDAR



1



2



3



4

## 1 CELEBRATING CATFISH

Butler County was once known as the Catfish Capital of the World, and fried catfish is a highlight of its Green River Catfish Festival, July 3–5 at the Green River Fairgrounds. Other attractions: a carnival, pageants, live music, food trucks, craft vendors, dog show and kids zone. New on Thursday: catfish “wrestling,” and an actual wrestling show. Hours: 4–10 p.m. daily. Info, Facebook: Green River Catfish Festival, (270) 526-6827.

## 2 4TH PLUS TWO

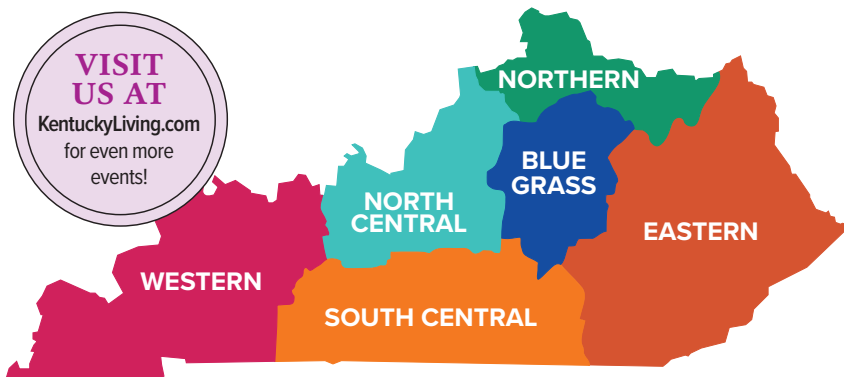
The name may be 4th Fest, but Madisonville’s celebration extends through July 6 with three full days of live music and family fun at City Park. Plus food trucks, vendors, beer garden and fireworks after Friday’s concert. R&B Pop Night is Friday; Country Night is Saturday; and Praise in the Park is Sunday. Concerts are at 5:30 p.m. each night; vendors open at 3 p.m. Free admission. For details, visitmadisonvilleky.com, (270) 824-2100.

## 3 RIVERFRONT FUN

Stroll the Augusta riverfront and enjoy food and craft vendors, local bands, DJ music and pageants at Riverfest Fair, July 18–20. New: a Floral Hall—enter your goods ranging from veggies to cakes to pieced quilts for awards; plus 4-H kids animal show and dog show on Sunday. See stern-wheelers, weather and river permitting. Friday: 4–10 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Info, augustaky.gov, (606) 756-2183.

## 4 BERRY NICE

You-pick and you have fun at Wildside Winery’s Blackberry Harvest Festival, July 19–20. Pick your own fresh, ripe blackberries in the winery’s scenic Versailles orchard—free while they last. Savor blackberry wine slushies, tasty blackberry cobbler and fine wines. Plus live music and vendors offering unique handmade crafts and food. Free admission. Hours: noon–7 p.m. Saturday; noon–5 p.m. Sunday. Info, wildsidewinery.com, (859) 879-3982.



## BLUEGRASS

### TUESDAY, JULY 1

**Waveland's Tea Tuesday**, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, (859) 272-3611, Waveland State Historic Site, Lexington

**Walking Across Egypt**, thru 19th, (859) 236-2747, Pioneer Playhouse, Danville

**Annual Blackberry Festival**, thru 5th, (859) 749-7986, Carlisle

### SUNDAY, JULY 6

**April Bixler Live**, (859) 644-5140, Harkness Edwards Vineyards, Winchester

### FRIDAY, JULY 11

**Summer Concert Series**, 25th, (502) 223-2261, Frankfort

### SATURDAY, JULY 12

**BryerFest**, thru 13th, (859) 233-4303, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington

### SUNDAY, JULY 13

**The Lasses Live**, (859) 644-5140, Harkness Edwards Vineyards, Winchester

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

**Savory Memories**, (859) 231-5500 Ext. 2627, Lexington Public Library-Tates Creek Branch

### TUESDAY, JULY 22

**Not from Around Here**, thru Aug. 9th, (859) 236-2747, Pioneer Playhouse, Danville

### THURSDAY, JULY 24

**Waveland Tea & Talk—Cheers for LaFayette: A Hero's Welcome in Lexington**, (859) 272-3611, Waveland State Historic Site, Lexington

### SATURDAY, JULY 26

**Retro & Ethereal Market**, (502) 839-1299, Lovers Leap Vineyards & Winery, Lawrenceburg

### TUESDAY, JULY 29

**Jean Ritchie: Damsel with a Dulcimer**, (859) 873-5191, Woodford County Public Library, Versailles

## EASTERN

### TUESDAY, JULY 1

**Americans: Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit**, thru 5th, (606) 329-8888, Highlands Museum & Discovery Center, Ashland

### THURSDAY, JULY 3

**Locally Made Farmers Market**, thru 5th, 10-12th, 17-18th, 24-25th, (606) 567-7703, Beattyville

### FRIDAY, JULY 4

**4th of July Celebration**, (606) 549-0530, Kentucky Splash Waterpark, Williamsburg

### SATURDAY, JULY 5

**Red River Gorge Farmers Market**, 12th, 19th, 26th, (606) 663-1161, Natural Bridge Skyline, Slade

**HopeFest**, (859) 498-8732, Botts Park, Mt. Sterling

**Depot Street Market**, (606) 528-6657, Corbin

### FRIDAY, JULY 11

**The Curious Savage**, thru 13th, 18th-20th, (606) 780-4342, Rowan County Arts Center, Morehead

### SATURDAY, JULY 12

**Festival of the Arts**, (606) 848-1530, Kentucky Coal Museum, Benham

**Cumberland Valley Cruise-In**, (606) 528-8860, Corbin

**Happy Feet 5K**, (606) 329-9304, Crabbe Elementary School, Ashland

### FRIDAY, JULY 18

**Outdoor Movie Night**, (606) 573-4156, Harlan Center Plaza

### SATURDAY, JULY 19

**Minnie Adkins Day**, (606) 738-5515, Little Sandy Lodge, Sandy Hook

### THURSDAY, JULY 24

**Gears & Beers**, (606) 573-4156, Harlan

## SATURDAY, JULY 26

**Veterans Challenge 5K**, (606) 369-4403, Greenup City Park

**Saturday Night Car Cruise**, (606) 464-5038, Beattyville

## NORTH CENTRAL

### THURSDAY, JULY 3

**Bluegrass & Booms**, thru 5th, (502) 813-8200, Kentucky Kingdom, Louisville

**Independence Day Celebration**, (859) 336-5412, ext. 6, Springfield

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

**The Sound of Music**, thru Aug. 6th, (502) 348-5971, J. Dan Talbott Amphitheatre, Bardstown

**Lawn Party**, (270) 765-6121, Elizabethtown

### THURSDAY, JULY 10

**St. Francis Picnic**, thru 12th, (270) 692-0021, Loretto Community Center

### FRIDAY, JULY 11

**Summer Concert Series: Jimmy Buffett Tribute**, thru 12th, (270) 692-0021, Johnson Field at Centre Square, Lebanon

**Bluegrass Friday Nights**, (270) 257-2311, Rough River Dam State Resort Park, Falls of Rough

### SATURDAY, JULY 12

**Blooming Bardstown Garden Tour**, (502) 348-9204

**East Main Market Concert Series: The '77 Experience**, (270) 259-5587, Leitchfield

### SUNDAY, JULY 13

**Afternoon Tea**, thru 14th, (859) 710-1557, Maple Hill Manor, Springfield

### TUESDAY, JULY 15

**With Liberty & Justice for All! A Countdown to USA 250: Into the Bluegrass**, (502) 564-1792, Carnegie Library Center, Shelbyville

### FRIDAY, JULY 18

**Concert in the Park: All That Band**, (270) 257-2311, Rough River Dam State Resort Park, Falls of Rough

**Shepherdsville Cruise-In**, (502) 543-8656, Shepherdsville City Park

### SATURDAY, JULY 19

**Twin Lakes National Fiddler Championship**, (270) 259-5587, Leitchfield

### SATURDAY, JULY 26

**Henry County Harvest Showcase**, (502) 229-2432, Henry County Fairgrounds, New Castle

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**EagleManiacs—Eagles Tribute**, (270) 259-5587, Leitchfield

**Frazier Summer Beer Fest**, (502) 753-5663, Frazier Kentucky History Museum, Louisville

**MONDAY, JULY 28**

**Savory Memories**, (502) 797-9365, Bullitt County Public Library, Mt. Washington

**NORTHERN**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 2**

**Fort Thomas Farmers Market**, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, (513) 621-2142

**SATURDAY, JULY 5**

**Schoolyard Winery's Farmers Market**, 12th, 19th, 26th, (859) 814-4126, Verona

**The Color Purple**, thru 6th, (859) 957-1940, The Carnegie, Covington

**SUNDAY, JULY 6**

**Walton-Verona Farmers and Artisan Market**, (859) 414-0400, Walton City Hall

**SATURDAY, JULY 12**

**Kentucky Symphony Orchestra: Williams' Wonderous World**, (859) 431-6216, Devou Park, Covington

**Skeeterfest**, (800) 382-7117, Grant County Fairgrounds, Williamstown

**SUNDAY, JULY 13**

**Kentucky Symphony Orchestra: Williams' Wonderous World**, (859) 431-6216, Tower Park Amphitheater, Fort Thomas

**FRIDAY, JULY 18**

**Bacon, Bourbon and Brew**, thru 20th, (859) 261-4677, Festival Park, Newport

**Grandpa Jones: Country Musician and Comic**, (859) 654-8535, Pendleton County Public Library, Falmouth

**SATURDAY, JULY 19**

**Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour**, (859) 635-9587, Alexandria

**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

**Burlington Antique Show**, (513) 922-6847, Boone County Fairgrounds

**THURSDAY, JULY 24**

**Glier's Goettafest**, thru 27th; 31-Aug. 3rd, (859) 291-1800, Festival Park, Newport

**FRIDAY, JULY 25**

**Lone Star Wide Open No Fear Rodeo**, thru 26th, (270) 269-6000, Owen County Fairgrounds, Owenton

**SATURDAY, JULY 26**

**Balloons & Tunes**, (859) 654-4567, Kentucky Wool Festival Grounds, Falmouth

**Lions Club Cruise-In**, (859) 414-4393, Butler Community Center

**SATURDAY, JULY 12**

**BG Winefest**, (270) 745-7317, Historic RailPark & Train Museum, Bowling Green

**SATURDAY, JULY 19**

**PossAbilities Expo, Nicely Conference Center**, Bowling Green

**Casey County Fair**, thru 26th, (606) 787-4740, Central Kentucky Ag/Expo Center, Liberty

**SATURDAY, JULY 26**

**Somernites Cruise Car Show and Cruise**, (606) 872-2277, Fountain Square, Somerset

**WESTERN**

**SATURDAY, JULY 5**

**Free Admission First Saturdays**, (270) 993-1234, Western Kentucky Botanical Garden, Owensboro

**THURSDAY, JULY 10**

**McLean County Ag Fair**, thru 12th, (270) 993-5287, Myer Creek Park, Calhoun

**FRIDAY, JULY 11**

**Movies at Mahr: Wall-E**, (270) 584-9017, Mahr Park Arboretum, Madisonville

**Owensboro Flea Market**, thru 13th, (270) 926-1100, Owensboro Convention Center

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 16**

**Daviess County Lions Club Fair**, thru 19th, (270) 297-9519, Daviess County Lions Club Fairgrounds, Philpot

**FRIDAY, JULY 18**

**Truck and Tractor Pulls**, thru 19th, (270) 297-9519, Daviess County Lions Club Fairgrounds, Philpot

**SATURDAY, JULY 19**

**Western Kentucky Beer Festival**, (270) 584-9017, Mahr Park Arboretum, Madisonville

**Guided Hike: Pollinators**, (270) 584-9017, Mahr Park Arboretum, Madisonville

**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

**Sunday Seminar: Bee 101**, (270) 584-9017, Mahr Park Arboretum, Madisonville

**TUESDAY, JULY 22**

**McCracken County Fair**, thru 26th, (270) 883-1386, Carson Park, Paducah

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 23**

**Sandy Lee Watkins Songwriters Festival**, thru 26th, (270) 826-3128, Audubon Mill Park, Henderson

**SATURDAY, JULY 26**

**Relax & Re-Wine: Melanie Davis**, (270) 493-2682, Poca Terra Winery, Benton

**Show & Go Car Club Cruise-In**, (270) 821-3163, Madisonville City Park

**SOUTH CENTRAL**

**TUESDAY, JULY 1**

**Speed Captured: The Photographic Works of Richard Prince**, thru Dec. 23rd, (270) 781-7973, National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 2**

**4th of July Celebration**, thru 7th, (270) 465-8601, Campbellsville

**THURSDAY, JULY 3**

**Summer concert Series**, 10th, 17th, (606) 348-6351, Conley Bottom Resort, Monticello

**FRIDAY, JULY 4**

**4th of July**, (606) 706-7777, City Green, Liberty

**Liberty Cruisers Friday Night Car Show**, (606) 706-7777, Courthouse Square

**Concerts in the Park**, 11th, 18th, 25th, (270) 782-0800, Circus Square Park, Bowling Green

**TUESDAY, JULY 8**

**In Harmony Tour**, (502) 587-8681, Glasgow

**FRIDAY, JULY 11**

**Master Musicians Festival**, thru 12th, (606) 679-6366, Somerset

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#### 1 FRONT PORCH COWGIRL

Irah Kay Hill hugs her calf, Cotton, on the front porch of the family home in Paint Lick. Photo by mom, Aleshia Hill, a consumer-member of Blue Grass Energy.

#### 2 THE GRASS IS GREENER

Charlie Giles enjoys a beautiful Sunday afternoon feeding the sheep. Photo by mom, Samantha Giles, Columbia, a consumer-member of Taylor County RECC.

#### 3 CREEKSIDE PAWS

Alphonse the cat takes a break during an afternoon walk to the creek in Whitley County. Photo by Madison McKinney, Corbin, a consumer-member of Cumberland Valley Electric.

#### 4 CIRCLE OF LIFE

Love 'em or hate 'em, the 17-year cicadas are back. Edwin Bowe snapped this picture on his farm near Nicholasville. Bowe is a consumer-member of Blue Grass Energy.

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## Homegrown Goodies

Some families grow vegetables in their garden, bake bread at home, or even keep chickens that lay fresh eggs!



## STAY SAFE IN THE HEAT!

Summer can get really hot. That can make your body feel tired, dizzy, or even sick. This is called heat exhaustion. But do not worry—here are tips for you to stay cool:

- Wear loose, light-colored clothes.
- Put on sunscreen before going outside.
- Drink lots of water when you play in the sun.
- Try to play outside in the morning or later in the evening, when it is not so hot.



## Did You Know?

Dogs are the most popular pets on Earth! About one out of every three families has a dog.

## Green Team Tip

Be a lunchbox hero! Use a reusable lunchbox and water bottle instead of throwaways.

— Deacon John, age 9

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Submit a Green Team Tip or Joke online at [KentuckyLiving.com:Magazine/Submissions](http://KentuckyLiving.com:Magazine/Submissions) for a chance to win a prize!

## Take Care of Your Eyes

If you are going to play or swim outside for a long time on bright summer days, wear sunglasses to keep your eyes safe from the harsh light.

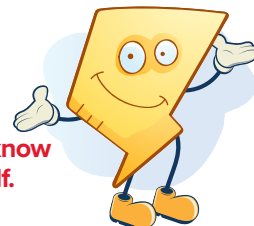


## Tell us a joke!

Why does lightning shock people?

Because it doesn't know how to conduct itself.

— Avery Brewer, age 12



# GREAT OUTDOORS

## The new cane pole

*An old-fashioned favorite is back*

**WHEN MY FRIEND** Kent Driscoll recently handed me a new B'n'M telescoping pole, I couldn't wait to use it. Kent is a pro staffer for the company, which has been making fishing rods since 1949. The new pole, which is called the Ambush, is made of graphite, but it's an old-fashioned cane pole style designed by legendary crappie angler Steve Coleman.

Using the Ambush took me right back to my childhood, when I was 5 years old and we were headed to the lake for some fishing and camping. Those days were so much fun. Some of my most vivid memories from that time are weekend outings with my twin sister, Kim, and my parents. Kim and I spent hours catching crawdads along the shoreline, turning over rocks and snatching them before they left the scene. When Momma wasn't grilling hot dogs or making sandwiches, she and Kim went swimming. It was a great time for us all.

The highlight of these camping trips, for me, was fishing with my dad. We had a small boat and could see the camp from where we fished. I would wave at Momma each time we passed near enough, and if we caught a fish, I held up the size with my hands. My Dad was a serious angler. He had good fishing equipment that included one of those giant two-sided tackle boxes filled with tackle. At the time, I had used only two types of fishing poles—spinning rods and B'n'M jig poles that my grandfather used. I had never seen a cane pole until that day on the way to the lake.

There was a small gas station, or filling station as we called them back then, on the way to the boat ramp. We always stopped for food and minnows. On this day, standing at the counter waiting to pay, I happened to look up into the rafters where there were fishing poles like I had never seen—but I knew what they were made of, because I had seen cane growing along a creek. Without any guides or even a place for a reel, I might not have known



they were used for fishing except for one thing—the B'n'M logo.

Those B'n'M jig poles that my grandfather kept in his little barn shed had that same logo. After gathering tools for planting beans or repairing the hog pen, my grandfather always let me close that little shed door. Maybe he wanted to teach me to keep the door closed—or maybe he was giving me a moment to check out those poles and dream about fishing.

As fishing technology progressed, so did fishing poles—even the humble cane pole. My cane pole days were limited to that one trip, more than 50 years ago now, when I thought using a pole with no guides and no reel was the coolest thing. Today, my cane pole fascination is back. **KL**

**KEN MCBROOM**, an outdoors writer/photographer, created [RamblingAngler.com](http://RamblingAngler.com). McBroom grew up in Lynchburg, Tennessee, and now lives in western Kentucky.

► That's me this past spring with the new B'n'M telescoping pole. Photo: Ken McBroom

That's me more than 50 years ago with that B'n'M cane pole. Photo: Pat McBroom

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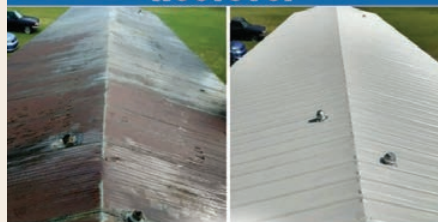
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# The Needle's Eye

*A legend of buried treasure*



**BYRON CRAWFORD** is Kentucky's storyteller—a veteran television and newspaper journalist known for his colorful essays about life in Kentucky. Contact Byron at [KentuckyLiving.com](http://KentuckyLiving.com): About/People.

**ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF PINE MOUNTAIN**, near the rural Bell County settlement of Frakes, a large hole in the center of a sandstone formation is known as the “Needle’s Eye.”

When I saw it many years ago, it was surrounded by scattered woodland and laurel thickets on private property. The natural hole through its middle was about 8 feet high and 12 feet wide. Some old-timers in the area knew it as the “barn rock.”

Its kinship with the legend of a buried treasure is as hazy as the mountains of Tennessee in the distance.

Hodge Partin of Frakes, an area served by Cumberland Valley Electric, told me the story three years before his death in 1993 at age 89. He said that in 1932 a stranger named Blakely, who was believed to be from North Carolina

peculiar symbols matching those drawn on a map that he carried.

Partin explained that he and his father helped Blakely (whose first name is unknown) find such markings as “turkey tracks” and “pony tracks” that were carved into some of the sandstone outcroppings and in some places still visible, as well as other landmarks, including the Needle’s Eye and a V-shaped stone below a cliff.

Just at dusk, on the day the V-shaped rock was found, Partin said Blakely told them that a small treasure might already have been dug up there, but that he was fairly certain that a larger one could be found near the Needle’s Eye. As darkness fell, he said he would return the next morning to dig for the treasure.

Blakely was so happy, Partin told me, that he actually “did a little dance” before they started home on foot.

They hadn’t gone far before Blakely suddenly collapsed in the road—and was dead!

The sheriff who searched Blakely’s cabin reportedly said he found an assortment of odd tools, some of which appeared to be dowsing instruments. Blakely’s map—drawn on the back of what appeared to be an old waybill—was filled with symbols, most of which could not be deciphered.

Ray Partin of Walhalla, South Carolina, a native of Bell County and distant relative of Hodge Partin, remembers hearing the stories about a buried treasure, but said he was skeptical.

Several copies of the purported treasure map have been circulated over the years, and renewed interest in searching for the treasure was sparked a few decades ago by an article about the Needle’s Eye in a treasure hunters’ magazine.

Someone, somewhere may know the true story of the Needle’s Eye treasure—if there ever was one. Then again, the mysterious man named Blakely may have taken it to his grave in 1932. **KL**



and of Cherokee descent, moved into the community, lived alone, offered no explanation of his presence there, and kept to himself, except to befriend a few locals who knew the landmarks on Pine Mountain. These he enlisted to help locate certain rock formations and



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