

# Y **THE ADVANCE** Yeoman

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# 2020

*Progress  
Edition*

## 2020 has been hard

by **Teresa Pearson**  
Editor, Advance  
Yeoman

As hard as 2020 has been on all of us, Ballard County has still had some good things happen this year. Sometimes we just have to look for the good and stay optimistic. More than

anything else that has happened is that the community pulled together in many ways. From doubling up on ordering take out, to the Senior Parade for the graduating Class of 2020, to having a Unity in the Community meeting at the fairgrounds, Ballard County

residents have helped each other through the craziest year of a lifetime.

2020 is only half way through, so let us as a community, continue to support each other and keep smiling through it all.

Here are some of the brighter moments we have had in our area in 2020.



Fort Jefferson Hill Park and Memorial Cross in Wickliffe.

## Business in Ballard County

by **Hannah Chretien**  
the Chamber Director and Ballard  
EDC Director

Despite the current climate, business in Ballard County has been as busy as ever! Here is a short list of the past year's economic development of our county:

Wickliffe, KY Port Project:

With support from the Ballard County Economic & Industrial Development Board ("Ballard EDC"), the West Kentucky Regional Riverport Authority ("WKRRA") has secured \$100,000 in grant funding towards the development of a riverport in Wickliffe, KY. Out of the \$100,000, half is from the USDA's Rural Business Development Grant, \$40,000 was contributed by the

Delta Regional Authority, and \$10,000 was provided by the Ballard Industrial Development Authority ("Ballard IDA"). These funds will be used towards feasibility studies to determine the best location, structure, and industry use of the port, should it be built.

Business Expansions:

Over the past year, the Ballard IDA has worked tirelessly to support local businesses through a grant/loan program. From January 2019 – July 2020, over \$110,000 has been awarded in grants and 0% interest loans to support multiple business expansion projects and job creation throughout the county. Examples of such projects include but are not limited to the following: expansion of Big River Propeller, additional manufacturing equipment for Two

Rivers Fisheries, construction of The Farm, and feasibility study funds for the WKRRA's Wickliffe KY Riverport project.

Community Center:

In Fall of 2019, Kevil Kentucky gained a new arts and training center! Supported through donations and the Ballard EDC, the KY West Arts Center hosted talent shows, arts classes, photography lessons, and training opportunities to audiences of up to 80 people. Despite being closed due to the pandemic, KY West Arts Center intends to hold virtual music nights and other entertainment options virtually as of August 8, 2020.

Dollar General to Come to Barlow:

It is official – Dollar General is coming to the Senior Living

Community in Barlow! Although the construction date is yet to be determined, Dollar General has confirmed their location in the Senior Center Living Community near the existing Ballard County Senior Center. With support from the Ballard EDC and infrastructure assistance from the Ballard IDA, the entirety of the Senior Center Living Community has been equipped with water, sewer, and other utility access. A new boulevard with an additional highway entrance has been contracted for construction, and the Ballard EDC is actively pursuing new businesses interested in the senior living community. For more information, the Ballard EDC can be reached at (270) 462-2394.

## New KU Building going up in Kevil



Kentucky Utilities is building a new building in Kevil. The property was originally purchasead in 2015 from the Ballard EDC. KU is combining their Barlow facility with a maintenance facility to consolidate all operations in Kevil. They will have a ribbon cutting upon completion. The main contractor for the project is Pinnacle.

Photo by Teresa Pearson, Editor, Advance Yeoman



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## COVID help for river county

ANNOUNCING funding for businesses in western Kentucky counties: the River Counties Business Stimulus Fund!

The eligible counties include Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, and Hickman, thanks to our new partner, the Community Foundation of West Kentucky.

The details: CEDIK - Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky, in partnership with the Appalachian Impact Fund (AIF), housed at the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Invest 606, and the James Graham Brown Foundation is soliciting applications from businesses to the Kentucky Business Stimulus Fund. Eligible businesses in Southeast Kentucky are invited to

apply for up to \$3,000 in grant funds to support operations that have been hindered because of COVID-19.

Eligible business types:

- a) a business must be locally owned AND
- b) a business that falls under one of the following categories: restaurant or experience retail that includes the arts, tourism, accommodations, and entertainment.

Counties Eligible as of 4/20/2020: Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, and Hickman.

Deadline to apply: Rolling.

APPLY NOW >> <https://bit.ly/34JVzAl>

Questions: Contact Alison Davis, CEDIK Executive Director, [alison.davis@uky.edu](mailto:alison.davis@uky.edu)

## Updates from Barlow's Mayor

Barlow has welcomed several new businesses this past year. We are very excited to have Depot City II, a convenience store in town that also provides fast food products and employment opportunities. Ballard Mercantile also opened this past year, providing craft classes and merchandise from local artists. Ma and Pa's recently located at Ballard Mercantile, displaying and selling

outdoor furniture and decor. Western Cutterhead relocated to Barlow, adding to our list of businesses. Through receiving a grant, we have been able to install water and sewage to the Moore Development Property at the edge of town in hope of attracting more new businesses. We are in hopes of continuing with our Mum Festival in October and look to see you there!

## Donlow & Rollins announced as homecoming king & queen



Homecoming King Dequin Donlow & Queen Riley Rollins with little attendants Emma Glisson, Kouper Bodell and Ashlyn Davis.

# 2020 Wickliffe Update



Pauline's Place mini park in Wickliffe is ready to be a relaxing seating area for lunch or break.

The City of Wickliffe is still putting a big emphasis on cleaning up and beautifying our city. Like previous years, we have flowerpots displayed on the sidewalks throughout town, and this year we purchased new "Welcome to Wickliffe" banners that are hung throughout town. We have recognized property owners who have improved their properties and individuals for their service to our community.

The mini park in the downtown area (also known as "Pauline's Pa-

tio" or "Pauline's Place") on Fourth Street across from the Court House is complete and has a picnic table with an umbrella, benches, lighting, and landscaping.

A carport was placed at the riverfront so you can enjoy the view of the river. Another was installed on one of the existing pavilions for shade. More paving was completed for parking, and a porta potty was placed at the riverfront. Leaders are still in constant contact with other officials to get a new boat ramp.

Photo by Teresa Pearson

Wickliffe now has online bill pay for water bill customers! You may access this by going to the website <https://wickliffe.epayub.com> and registering or by entering your water account number.

The pavilion at Ft. Jefferson, named in honor of former Mayor R.K. Kelley, has been completed thanks to a generous donation from Larry Kelley.

Be sure to like City of Wickliffe, Kentucky on Facebook to stay up to date with news and happenings.

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**AUCTION CALENDAR**

AUGUST 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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# Ballard County Fiscal Court update

By Ballard County Judge Executive Todd Cooper

Over the last year, the fiscal court has sold county owned property in Wickliffe to 6 Chinese owned companies at the 72 acre tract. It has been named the International Fisheries Industrial Park. The goal is for the businesses to partner with Two Rivers Fisheries and help reduce the Asian Carp population on the rivers and lakes, get the natural game fish species back to old levels, create jobs and tourism opportunities for our county as well. The property is under construction, which includes a new road, new water/sewer expansion, electricity, natural gas and fiber optic lines. These are all necessary for the companies to start building on the site. After completion, we are hopeful that more than 100 people will be hired to work at the businesses at the park. The infrastructure construction is being paid for with a \$300,000 grant from the KY Department of Local Government, TVA RDAAP funds. The Fiscal Court and Ballard IDA are partnering on the construction projects.

In March of 2020, the West KY Riverport Authority

signed an agreement with Phoenix Paper to partner in developing an operating port at the Paper Mill Port site. This project is still in planning stages.

The Ballard Fiscal Court and Carlisle County IDA hired former Paducah Riverport Director Bill Miller in May 2020, to assist in riverport development in Wickliffe area as well as assist current maritime companies in the county and Cairo Harbor. The goal is to help the companies with needs they have, to help them sustain existing jobs or grow

Other goals are to partner with multiple counties for job growth in the maritime industry in our area.

Roads and bridges:

KYTC was able to build a new bridge that was completed in April on Jay Johnson Road. A new "T" stop was completed along with a new bridge in the summer/fall of 2019, at the KY 473 and Mosstown Road intersection, after six years(plus) of planning. A new bridge is currently under construction on Palemore Lane. KYTC has funded all projects. The County Road Department has repaired at least 6 culverts and drainage structures on county



Jay Johnson Road bridge is complete.

Photo by Teresa Pearson

roads....Since July 2019, the county has paved Powell Road, Coontrail Road, Purcell Road, Pine Lane, South Garrett Road, Cane Creek Circle, Stough Lane. The County Road Department chip and sealed almost 3 miles of county roads last summer and fall.

Over the last year, the Fiscal Court received a grant from PACRO in the

amount of \$225,000. Part of those funds were used to partner with the city of Wickliffe to buy property on the Mississippi River for future maritime industry expansion and employment opportunities. The remaining monies have been forwarded to the Ballard IDA. The IDA meets monthly and has established a business grant/loan program. The

program is able to provide funding to Ballard County businesses for expansion to maintain and grow employees. The Ballard IDA, was formed in January of 2018 and appointed by the Fiscal Court, to assist in economic development projects in the county. They have been a tremendous asset for Ballard County and our business retention program.

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## April's Grooming to be County Animal Shelter



by Teresa Pearson  
Editor, Advance Yeoman

BARLOW - The Ballard County Fiscal Court recently announced that April's Grooming and Boarding in Barlow will be the new Ballard County Animal Shelter starting mid to late September. April says this

will not be a drop off location for animals, instead they will be working with the Ballard County Animal Control. April's is currently renovating their new location to accommodate the new adventure. April's Grooming has been in Barlow for 7 years and recently relocated to a house beside the

First Baptist Church Community Center in Barlow that they have already been renovating. Now with this change they are working even harder on a new building behind the grooming shop to get things ready for housing more dogs. April's received a \$6,000 grant for the project but says the project is costing approximately \$15,000. April's will be adopting out the strays to the public. April's will be working with multiple adoption agencies to help but would like to adopt out as many as they can locally.

More details on that will be forthcoming.

In a recent facebook post April said, "It's not going to be easy but I'm so excited for our county and most excited for the area strays."

I will need lots of help so any volunteers feel free to call."

April's Grooming and Boarding is located at 344 Broadway in Barlow. Phone number (270) 217-1342.

# USDA invests \$2.4 million in Broadband for our area

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald “DJ” LaVoy



**BTC CEO/GM Randy Grogan addressing crowd.**

announced this year that USDA has invested \$2.4 million in a broadband infrastructure project in rural McCracken County Kentucky.

Ballard Telephone Cooperative (BTC) headquartered in La Center, KY was awarded a \$2.4 million grant to extend its buried fiber optic network further into McCracken county.

This New Hope broadband project includes an

area west of the Blandville Road and Hines Road intersection, west of the Lovelaceville Road and Hines Road intersection, west of the New Hope Church Road and Mayfield Metropolis Road intersection and west of the Lovelaceville Florence Station Road West and Mayfield Metropolis Road intersection with all this area being south and including Blandville Road.

The area surrounding the intersection of Childress Road and Gholsen Road is also included.

intersection with all this area being south and including Blandville Road. The area surrounding the intersection of Childress Road and Gholsen Road is also included.



**BTC board and management with USDA Deputy Under Secretary Donald “DJ” LaVoy and State Director Hilda Legg.**

Photos submitted

## Sen. Rand Paul’s attacker receives longer prison sentence

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) - U.S. Sen. Rand Paul’s former neighbor was resented Monday to an extra seven months behind bars and six months in home detention for tackling and injuring the Kentucky lawmaker over a lawn care dispute.

Rene Boucher originally was given a 30-day sentence after pleading guilty to assaulting a member of Congress. Federal prosecutors argued the sentence was too lenient, describing the 2017 attack outside Paul’s home in Bowling Green, Kentucky, as “vicious and unprovoked.” They sought at least 21 months for Boucher.

On Monday, another federal judge ordered Boucher to serve eight months in prison followed by six months of home confinement for the assault. He was given credit for the 30 days he’s already served behind bars.

Paul, a former presidential candidate, suffered multiple broken ribs and later underwent lung and hernia surgeries that he linked to the attack.

“Dr. Boucher is going to accept his punishment and he has sincerely apologized to the Pauls again today,” said Boucher’s attorney, Matt Baker. “He wants to put this behind him.”

Boucher has since sold his home, his attorney said.





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# The Self Reliant Roadshow visited Ballard County



The Self Reliant Roadshow made a stop in Ballard County. Pictured: Prepstester Bob and Mrs. B (left) with Lee and Teresa Pearson (right).

The Self Reliant Roadshow was recently parked in an empty lot on Hwy. 60 in Barlow.

The occupants, having traveled the country to help others were Prepstester Bob and Mrs. B, the stars of The Self Reliant Roadshow on Youtube.

After spending a few days in Troy,

TN helping a disabled veteran, Nathan Sampson, then a quick stop in Clinton, KY meeting Debbie Springard, who follows Bob and Mrs. B on Youtube, the bus made the stop in Barlow to stay overnight with Lee and Teresa Pearson.

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All Display Ads	54%		66%		73%		
Circulars	66%		71%		73%		
CATEGORY	Ad Recall	Reader Actions	Ad Likability	CATEGORY	Ad Recall	Reader Actions	Ad Likability
Accessories	52%	69%	80%	Home Furnishings	51%	63%	74%
Apparel	53%	67%	75%	Home Improvement	48%	65%	72%
Appliances	47%	62%	70%	Home Services	46%	63%	66%
Area Development	54%	69%	70%	Hospitals & Clinics	46%	64%	77%
Automotive	51%	65%	72%	Insurance	51%	63%	72%
Automotive Services	61%	65%	84%	Jewelry & Watches	52%	63%	78%
Beauty Supplies	53%	62%	67%	Lawn & Garden	50%	67%	78%
Business Services	52%	66%	77%	Liquor	59%	67%	71%
Collectibles	61%	53%	65%	Medical Devices	43%	58%	61%
Computer & Technology	54%	73%	86%	Office Supplies	62%	68%	71%
Coupons	66%	84%	79%	Professional Services	47%	68%	72%
Crafts	60%	72%	73%	Real Estate	52%	65%	80%
Dental Services	52%	66%	63%	Residential Services	39%	55%	66%
Drugs & Remedies	38%	67%	63%	Restaurants	58%	77%	85%
Drug Stores	72%	73%	70%	Retail	60%	71%	75%
Education	43%	59%	66%	Software	50%	70%	80%
Electronics	61%	71%	76%	Sporting Events	65%	70%	83%
Energy	49%	60%	71%	Sporting Goods	57%	63%	69%
Eyewear	51%	64%	67%	Telecommunication	54%	61%	72%
Finance	48%	65%	72%	Theatre/Concerts	58%	69%	79%
General Entertainment	60%	68%	75%	Tools & Hardware	56%	71%	75%
Government	56%	60%	58%	Transportation & Shipping	53%	58%	66%
Grocery Stores	67%	80%	81%	Travel	50%	66%	81%
Healthcare Services	46%	64%	69%	TV & Movies	57%	65%	75%

Source: Coda Ventures Newspaper Ad Effectiveness Service  
Ad Recall based on Issue-specific newspaper reader studies conducted from January 2016 - May 2020

## MOUNT, Inc. (Many Old Unique Needy Tombstones)



**MOUNT, Inc. Directors Pictured; Back row; Joby Barrow, Mary Lou Gholson-Guess, Tina Johnson Waid. Front row; Betty Johnson and Henrietta Ross Mitchell**

MOUNT Inc. (Many Old Unique Needy Tombstones), a nonprofit organization, was formed in April, 2009, specifically to care for the many old stones in need of repair as pictured above in a community cemetery. Over time, we moved from repairs in community cemeteries into descendant requests

for cleanups in old family cemeteries; abandoned in fields and woods. Lack of volunteers and weather has limited reaching approximately 200 old cemeteries in Ballard County.

Our MOUNT, Inc. board of directors meet annually in the Fall and work diligently together; planning, placing flags, and searching

for descendants; whenever permission for large stone repairs are needed. Our greatest need is more volunteers as we move from cemetery to cemetery around our county. Most landowners and farmers are very cooperative as we request permission to cross their land in search for the old long forgotten family cemeteries. Volunteers knowledgeable in construction work are extremely helpful to us. Any and all work in community cemeteries or old family cemeteries out of sight, should be a source of pride to our communities and county.

Please follow us on our Facebook page; Cemetery Restoration in Western Kentucky.

## PACRO granted Ballard County Fiscal Court \$75,000



**PACRO Director and Board Members present check to Ballard County Judge Executive Todd Cooper for purchasing land for existing and future Maritime Industry growth.**

**L to R: Greg Wiles, Pacro Board member John Summers, Judge Todd Cooper, Pacro Board Member Terry Simmons**  
Photo submitted

PACRO Executive Director Greg Wiles presented the Ballard Fiscal Court with the check on February 12, 2020 in Wickliffe.

The funds to be used in partnership with the Ballard Industrial Authority, the City

of Wickliffe and the Ballard Fiscal Court to purchase property. The property is located on Beech Creek in Wickliffe.

The property joins property currently owned by the city of Wickliffe and butts up

to and joins the Mississippi River. The property will be marketed to the existing and other maritime industry companies for future growth and expansion to add jobs to the region.

# Cemetery Restoration in Western Kentucky Dedicated Volunteer Cemetery Workers

by [bettyjohnsonky@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyjohnsonky@yahoo.com)

Saturday morning, eight dedicated volunteer cemetery workers made me thankful and proud at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Amazingly, each worker brought a different talent to our group that resulted in outstanding team work. All jumped right into helping to re-set stones, weed eating around many monuments, trimming

a large plant, and cutting back limbs from a low hanging magnolia tree in the front corner of the cemetery.

After working part of the morning in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, then on to Little Union Cemetery to do more weed eating, and picking up trash and limbs for the brush pile; soon to be moved by a volunteer. Little Union Cemetery is across from the church and hidden away in

the curve entering Bandana. Both Mt. Pleasant and Little Union cemeteries continue to need a lot of restoration and maintenance work. Our restoration group can use more volunteers. Masks are always worn along with temperature checks.

Please see more information and pictures on our Facebook page; Cemetery Restoration in Western Kentucky.



Photograph by Tina Johnson Waid

## Wickliffe completing work on Memorial Pavilion at Fort Jefferson



Larry Kelley gave the city of Wickliffe the other half of a \$5,000 donation that was used for the construction

of a Memorial Pavilion at Fort Jefferson. The project was done in honor of Kelley's father, R.K. Kelley, who

was a former mayor of Wickliffe. The city plans to add signage and a walkway to the site.



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# Fiscal Court presents Business of the Year awards

For the first time ever, the Ballard County Fiscal Court awarded businesses in Ballard County with Business of the Year awards.



The Farm: Chad Hayes



L to R: Tyler Davis-Big River Propeller, Phil and Melissa Abell-Kevil Grain, Kathie Adlotte and Pam Donaldson-His House, Tammy Dennis and Dwayne Mercer-Ballard County Coop, Kreg Denton-First Community Bank, Sam Davis-Big River Propeller.



James Marine: Baron Daniels (Job Coordinator) and Roger Shaw (Superintendent).



James Marine: front row L-R: Robert Dean (Marine Chemist), Aaron Anselm (Leadman), Kelly Abell (Foreman). Back row L - R: Stanley Johnson (pilot), Charles Tate (Foreman), Jacob Dunning (Leadman), Billy Sisco (Asst Superintendent), Mike Bostic (Electrician), Baron Daniels, (Repair Coordinator).



Graves Brothers in LaCenter: Owners Chad Shelton and Mark Tyler.



James Marine: front row L-R: Larry Miller (foreman), Rick Brewer (asst. superintendent), and Clayton Vaughn (foreman). Back row L - R: Joey Edwards (electric shop foreman), Johnny Riggs (pilot), Chris Walker (machine shop leadman), Garrett Thompson (foreman), and Matt Fritch (machine shop supervisor).

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# The Farm in La Center recieved \$10,000 grant



The Farm applied for a small business grant and were awarded the full \$10,000 grant. Left to Right: Randy Scott, Terry Simmons, Myra Hook, Hannah Chretien, Chad Hayes, Debbie Lawrence, Amber Hayes, Kreg Denton and Hannah Dixon. Holding check is Asher Hayes and Talan Hayes.

# Bluegrass Restaurant owners raise money for employees



With the COVID-19 regulations, restaurants across the country were sitting empty when certain businesses were shut down.

Helen and Nick Karadimas have owned Bluegrass Restaurant in LaCenter for six years and say being limited to take out was really tough for them.

They thought about how to keep the employees working, so instead of closing up the business and laying

off thier employees, the Karadimas's decided to have a day where all the money they made off of take out orders went directly to their employees.

The community responded with some people waiting two hours to get their take out orders.

Bluegrass and the employees survived this so far because of the efforts of the Karadimas family.

## RARE FIND in Ballard County!!!



### 6350 Paducah Rd., KEVIL, KY

This beautiful, newly renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath one level brick ranch home sits on approximately 30 acres. Many new updates- new metal roof, new flooring, new HVAC, new appliances and so much more. Features include a large RV carport, a horse barn with electric fence and new gate and a workshop with walled electricity and gas heat. Too many perks to list!

**\$299,999**



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# A \$1.5 million Workforce Grant was announced



Early this year Phoenix Paper was reported to be on the receiving end of another workforce grant from the state of Kentucky.

In the beginning, Phoenix Paper

planned to invest \$200 million to build a paper recycling facility at its Wickliffe mill. The Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority held a special meeting in August 2018.

Approved of a 15-year incentive agreement with the company under the Kentucky Business Investment program was allegedly the outcome of that meeting.

The mill opened

last year and produced its first roll of bleached, hardwood pulp on May 29. The facility currently employs more than 200 people and has an annual capacity of 300,000 tons.

## Hair Salon opens back up after COVID shut down



Valarie Burnley owner of Headlines Salon in La-Center has officially opened back up. She is cutting Cannon Ice's hair cut for first time since the Covid closing non essential businesses.

Photo submitted

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# Parade held for BMHS Senior Grads



A parade was held for the 2020 Graduates of BMHS on Saturday, May 16, 2020 since they were not able to have a customary public graduation ceremony due to COVID 19. Pictured are spectators watching the Senior Parade. Photos by Teresa Pearson



BMHS Graduates drove or rode in the parade from Wickliffe through Ballard County as people lined the highway with signs and balloons to watch and cheer.

# Cemetery Restoration in Western Kentucky FISHER Cemetery



by [bettyjohnsonky@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyjohnsonky@yahoo.com)

The Fisher Cemetery has long been hidden away among trees and dense undergrowth and surrounded by private property (between Barlow and Wickliffe area).

Our cemetery group has done one or two cleanups in the past for descendant Brittany Bowers Trott, who inquired about the location and requested to visit. Brittany is a teacher in Missouri and her mother is an avid genealogist.

Recently, both traveled to Ballard County, Kentucky and excitedly found the grave-sites of their ancestors; along with our help and permission from the landowners. One landowner even drove them to the cemetery.

The interesting history of the Fisher cemetery is through Brittany's grandpas line. Her 2x greatgrandmother was Birdie Myers Fisher. Her father was JW (Jacob Fisher) who married Sarah Virginia Knight (she died in childbirth). The Fisher line immigrated from Germany around 1846-1852 and settled in as farmers in Ballard Co, KY.

Perfect example of why our cemetery cleanups are important to descendants searching for their ancestors. Volunteers are desperately needed whenever we work off the beaten path. Plus, we always need

help in maintaining our community cemeteries, where both local and out of town descendants do research and visit. As often stated, cemetery restoration work should be a source of pride to our county and community service organizations.

Benjamin Franklin said "Show me your cemeteries and I will tell you what kind of people you have."

LIKE and FOLLOW us on our face book page: [Cemetery Restoration in Western Kentucky](#)

# Donlow made a rare accomplishment



Coach Jimmie Holder congratulates Dequin Donlow. Photos by Tim Taylor

On January 30 a free throw late in the fourth quarter allowed Dequin Donlow to join the ranks of Bomber all-time leading scorers.

A milestone only 11 other players had obtained.

Donlow's father David Hollowell was a Bomber guard who was a spark plug in his own

right and member of the Ballard Memorial Class of 1988 and was affectionately called Hollywood. His son Dequin was able to one up his dad and Dequin said he was going to make sure his dad knew it saying with a chuckle on making his name on the 1000 point scoring banner.

# Ballard County Senior Center served record number of meals



The Ballard County Senior Center hit a record meal numbers this year during the COVID Pandemic, serving 69-70 seniors with home deliveries & drive thru services. combined.

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# 4-H teens give back to community



4-H teens in the gazebo area of LifeCare Center. These 4-H'ers filled and hung birdfeeders for the residents. Back row L to R; Jake Miller, Wendy Burnley, Molly Harris and Bryce O'Neill Front row L to R: Kate O'Neill, Ike Miller and Ben Myers.

Photos by Teresa Pearson



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# Volunteers help local veteran



Volunteers that included Veterans, Boy Scouts and Firefighters came together to build a ramp for two local veterans in Wickliffe.

## More absentee voting likely for general election, Adams says

by TOM LATEK, Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) - Secretary of State Michael Adams told a legislative committee on Tuesday that Kentucky's June primary was a nationally recognized success, and while there will likely be changes in the November general election, which is now 99 days away, increased absentee voting will be part of it.

During testimony before the Interim Joint State Government Committee, he said, "What set Kentucky apart is that the General Assembly, the State Board of Elections, the county boards of elections, the governor and the secretary of state all worked together in a bipartisan way, to fashion fair and clear rules, well in advance of the election, and to consistently message the new procedures to inform and reassure voters."

Absentee voting was

a big part of the June success, Adams said. "Although absentee voting has been in our state's constitution since 1945, in a typical election fewer than two percent of voters mail in an absentee ballot. Many more than two percent of voters qualify for an absentee ballot, however."

He noted, "Even if the classes of absentee-eligible voters are not expanded for November, I think about 20 percent of voters may vote absentee, as they qualify under current law. I think that's entirely appropriate under the circumstances, and it helps us somewhat thin out the expected crowds who will vote in person."

Adams said absentee balloting, in-person early voting and voting on Election Day itself, are all factors he wants to balance, before going to Gov. Andy Beshear for an executive order, probably in August.

He says it may be possible to have expanded absentee voting again in November, "but personally, I'm dubious that we can fully replicate the primary election plan in all respects, as we believe turnout will be 250% higher in November than in June, and it's not obvious that our county clerks, or the post office, can manage a 250% increase in absentee ballots."

Adams says he bases that on feedback from state and local election officials from both major parties. "They, and I, are concerned that going from 750,000 absentee ballots to 1.875 million absentee ballots, or more, would overload and crash our system."

He also expressed concerns over the cost of printing and postage for absentee ballots, as two-thirds of the federal CARES Act money his office received was spent during the

primary.

Early voting worked, Adams told the panel, and that while the county clerks are split on whether they should expand absentee voting in November, they universally support in-person early voting to help smooth out the number of voters over a period of weeks rather than one day.

"This is a far less expensive and labor-intensive way to conduct an election," he stated, "and as we've shown, we can do it in a way that keeps voters and election workers safe. Assuming we can find the locations and enough poll workers, the challenge here would be to encourage enough voters to utilize early voting and take the pressure off election day voting sites."

He said the effort to keep voters safe, and ensure they are not disenfranchised by the coronavirus, are possible only because

of emergency powers lawmakers granted to him and Gov. Beshear.

"I have used, and will continue to use, those powers in a limited way, reluctantly and only where necessary. As we develop procedures for November, I will only modify existing election rules to the extent it takes to keep Kentuckians safe and ensure a successful election conducted under a state of emergency."

Rep. Jason Nemes, R-Louisville, suggested a special session might be in order to make any changes to election law.

"You and Gov. Beshear get your plan together and come to the policy-making body, the legislature, and we make the changes going forward, because we are not constrained by time like we were before."

After the meeting, Adams told reporters the reason he has not yet come up

with a plan for November, "What I am trying to find is the 'Goldilocks Option,' of how do we have some absentee voting, some early voting and some election day voting, and not have too much pressure on any part of that system."

When asked about the special session suggestion, Adams replied, "I don't know if there is time for the governor to call a special session and for the legislature to reach consensus on how to come up with the election plan, in time for us to have it ready when it needs to be ready, which is pretty soon. I don't object to it if that's what the governor wants to do."

He also said he and the governor's office have been meeting for about two weeks, and they continue to have an open line of communication, adding, "He's been great to work with."

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# Faith on the Fairgrounds



Ballard County residents come together at the fairgrounds to listen to messages from several local pastors and pray for unity.

On Monday, June 8th approximately 100 people attended a peaceful prayer event at the fairgrounds in La Center. The group came out despite the appearance of rain

that overshadowed the event that called for Unity in our Community.

The prayer event was a proactive event to move our county closer together considering

recent events in the country that might otherwise pull us apart.

Several area churches put on the event and may plan to do it again in the coming weeks.

# Q and A with Prince Pit BBQ

**What updates have you done in the past year?**

• Over the past year, everything has pretty much stayed the same for Prince Pit BBQ. After Ricky passed away at the end of 2018, our goal has been to carry on the business by providing great food and service.

**Adding any new services or planning on adding any?**

• At this point, we are staying busy and don't have any new announcements on the horizon.

**How has the pandemic made you adjust your business**

**model? If so, will you keep any new way of business ideas from now on?**

• During the COVID-19 pandemic, meat prices skyrocketed throughout the nation, along with the prices of many other supplies. This forced us to slightly increase our prices. It has been well over 5 years since any prices have been altered, so at this point our new menu prices will remain in effect.

**How did the pandemic affect your business?**

• Thanks to the set up of our business, the restrictions stemming

from COVID-19 did not affect the weekly business at Prince Pit BBQ. We do not have dine-in seating and already served as a carry-out type of restaurant. However, our catering services were suspended since no one was allowed to gather or have events.

**Are you back to normal with business?**

• The regular weekly business is still operating as normal. Our first catering since the COVID-19 pandemic is scheduled for August. We look forward to picking back up with our catering business.

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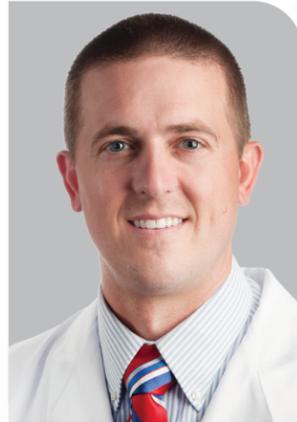
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