

The Jackson County Times Obituary Page is Sponsored By



Brenda Lee Carpenter Coffey

Mrs. Brenda Lee Carpenter Coffey, age 54, passed away Saturday, January 19, 2019 at St. Joseph London Hospital in London, Ky.

She was born on July 10th, 1964 in Mt. Vernon, Ky., a daughter of the late Roland Carpenter and Katha Morris Carpenter. She had been a homemaker.

Those left to celebrate her life are: her husband, David Coffey of Jackson County; Two children: Bridgette Hillard of McKee, Ky. and Beth Hillard of McKee, Ky. Four grandchildren. Her brother: Mark Carpenter and Deanna of Brodhead, Ky., her sister: Kaye Sizemore and Jeff of McKee, Ky., as well as a host of nieces/nephews, friends and neighbors.

Besides her father, she was preceded in death by a sister Betty Whitehead.

Visitation for Mrs. Brenda Coffey will be Monday, January 21, 2019 from 11AM-1PM at Morning View Holiness Church. Funeral services will be conducted at 1PM Monday at Morning View Holiness Church with Bro. Philip Doan officiating. Burial will follow in Morning View Cemetery.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.marvineowensfuneralhome.com

Losie Couch

Losie Couch was born August 15, 1948 in Clay County and departed this life Monday, January 14, 2019 at the St. Joseph Hospital in London, being 70 years of age. She was the daughter of the late Noah & Mary (Marcum) Wagers.

Losie is survived by two children, Frank Couch and John Lee Couch and by one brother, Noah Wagers. She was blessed with ten grandchildren and a host of great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Losie was also preceded in death by her husband, John Couch; by a son, John Couch Jr.; by a daughter, Ruby Smith; by two sisters, Martha Wagers and Bruning Smith and by three brothers, A.T. Wagers, Stanley Wagers and Nick Wagers.

Funeral service 1:00 PM Thursday, January 17, 2019 at Lakes Funeral Home with Bro. Bobby Smith and Bro. Willard McQueen officiating. Burial to follow in the Collins & Frances Cemetery.

Lakes Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

www.lakesfuneralhomemckee.com

Denver Lakes

Denver Lakes was born February 25, 1935 Jackson County and departed this life Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at his residence, being 83 years old. He was the son of the late E.P. & Pearl (Wyrick) Lakes. Denver is survived by his loving wife, Norma (Wagner) Lakes of Annville. He is also survived by a brother, Ralph Lakes of Miamisburg, OH and Pauline Lakes Melton of Clarksville, TN. He was blessed with several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Denver was also preceded in death by his siblings, Ray Lakes, Blaine Lakes, Beebe Lakes, Clellon Lakes, Hershel Lakes, Hubert Lakes, Dale Lakes and Jeralee (Lakes) Padia. Denver graduated from Tyner High School and went to Sue Bennett College. He taught school and retired from Coke-Cola Company in the accounting department. Denver was a member of the Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, KY.

Funeral service 1:00 PM Saturday, January 19, 2019 at Lakes Funeral Home with Bro. Frank Peters and Bro. Denny McCowan officiating. Burial to follow in the Farmer Cemetery in Tyner. Pallbearers: Jerry Bush, Jeff Padia, Matthew McQueen, Greg Lakes, Connor Davis, Tony Webb. Honorary pallbearers: Allan Dalton, Keith Flanigan, Vonis Brinson, Billy Gene Webb, Ronnie Webb & Chad Vaughn.

Kay (Cox) Sparks

Kay (Cox) Sparks was born September 23, 1964 in Richmond and departed this life Sunday, January 13, 2019 at the St. Joseph Hospital in Berea, being 54 years of age. She was the daughter of the late Jesse Cox & Ruth (Tillery) Cox.

Kay is survived by her daughter, Sarah Carr and her husband Brandon of Sand Gap and by two brothers, Jesse (Pug) Cox and Virgil Sparks both of McKee. She was blessed with three granddaughters, Addison Carr, Ava Carr, Amelia Carr; by a niece, Jesslyn Cox and by a special nephew, Brandon Sparks that she loved as her own.

Funeral service 2:00 PM Friday, January 18, 2019 at Lakes Funeral Home with Bro. Keith Carr officiating. Burial to follow in the Spurlock Cemetery.

Lakes Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



FOCUS Program Working with University of Kentucky to Help Local Small Businesses



Dr. Alison Davis, with the University of Kentucky, discusses the CREATE BRIDGES program at a FOCUS board meeting. FOCUS is a regional economic development group serving five Southeastern Kentucky counties.

Lexington, KY – FOCUS, a regional economic development organization serving five-counties in Southeastern Kentucky, is working with the University of Kentucky on a pilot program to assist small businesses in the region.

Experts at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment identified two multi-county regions in the state for participation in CREATE BRIDGES, a pilot program designed to support the retail, entertainment, and tourism sectors in rural economies.

FOCUS includes business, community and county representatives from Clay, Jackson, Lee, Leslie and Owsley counties. It grew out of collaborative meetings held at Jackson Energy to look at economic development in the region.

FOCUS members include Chairman Karen Combs, Jackson Energy; Vice Chairman Ed Morgan, Jackson County representative; Secretary Treasurer Molly Turner, Owsley County Action Team; Greene Keith, Kentucky Highlands; Earl Owens, Clay County Fiscal Court; Dedra Brandenburg, Beattyville/Lee County Tourism; Melissa Quillen, East Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP); Kristel Smith, economic development professional; Michael Stidham and Keith Gabbard, Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative; Carol Wright, Jackson Energy Cooperative; Jackson County Judge Executive Shane Gabbard; Clay County Judge Executive Johnny Johnson; Lee County Judge Executive Chuck Caudill; Owsley County Judge Executive Cale Turner and Leslie County Judge Executive William Lewis.

The two Kentucky regions selected for the program are EKCEP and Big Sandy. FOCUS is part of the EKCEP region. The EKCEP region includes Bell, Jackson, Clay, Leslie, Harlan, Owsley, Perry, and Lee Counties in Southeast Kentucky. Soon after this region begins their work, the Big Sandy region, which includes Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike Counties, will start the program.

CREATE BRIDGES was established with outside funding and launched earlier this fall in Oklahoma, Kentucky, and Arkansas and coordinated by the Southern Rural Development Center.

As part of this innovative initiative, University of Arkansas, the University of Kentucky, and Oklahoma State University will collaborate to develop, refine, and pilot a process to help rural communities build their capacity for strengthening the retail, tourism, hospitality, and entertainment sectors, which provide jobs and business opportunities that frequently boost rural economies.

“We’re not only focusing on workforce development, but also on retail business needs and the issues they’re facing in rural communities,” said Davis, Kentucky program leader, Agricultural Economics Professor and Executive Director of the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK) at the University of Kentucky. The EKCEP region, a combination of existing Promise Zone communities and FOCUS (a new regional economic development organization based in Jackson County) was chosen because of the strength of the regional partnership and the tremendous resources available from the regional workforce investment board.

The Big Sandy region is a hub for retail and tourism activity centered in Pike County with supporting activity in surrounding counties. The region is home to over 150,000 residents. This region is interested in using a robust CREATE sector to attract other industry to the region.

Generally, the retail sector in rural communities often fills local needs and serves as an entry point for new workers. However, businesses may struggle to keep workers for extended periods, which leads to a shortage of shift leaders, floor supervisors, and managers.

Davis and CEDIK Economic Development Specialist Luke Ramsay will work with state partners to facilitate a retail academy for regional leaders and a business retention and expansion program. They also will coordinate with regional workforce investment boards to identify opportunities for workforce training focused on incumbent and new workers. The program also will look at workforce solutions to retain workers and promote from within.

CREATE BRIDGES is being developed by a team of experts including Davis and Ramsay, University of Arkansas’ Stacy McCullough and Julianne Dunn, Oklahoma State University’s Dave Shideler and Sara Siems, and the Southern Rural Development Center’s Rachel Welborn and Grace Langford.

CREATE BRIDGES builds upon Stronger Economies Together (SET), a collaborative effort across 32 states led by the Southern Rural Development Center, that helps rural counties work together to develop and implement an economic development plan for their multicounty region.

For more information about CREATE BRIDGES, visit <https://cedik.ca.uky.edu/createbridges> or contact Alison Davis at 859-257-7260 or alison.davis@uky.edu.

**Please have all Obituaries and In Memorials
in to our office by 12:00 on Tuesday.**

You can drop them off at or mail to:
17 Lakewood Dr. McKee, KY 40447

You may also email them to sue@thejacksoncountytimes.com

FLAT ROCK MONUMENTS

Now at their new location!

Across from
Lakes Funeral Home
at the former
McKee Monument.

Call us at (606) 287-3800.

