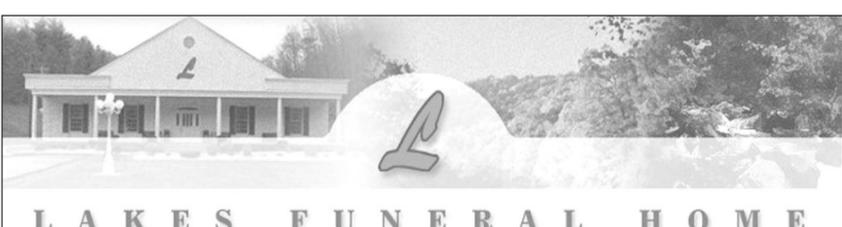


# The Jackson County Times

## Obituary Page is Sponsored By



### Kelly Jo Couch

March 12, 1978 - July 20, 2022

Kelly Jo (Lewis) Couch was born March 12, 1978 in Richmond and departed this life Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at the Baptist Health Hospital in Richmond at the age of 44. She was the daughter of Cowley & Peggy Sue (Isaacs) Lewis of McKee.

In addition to her parents, Kelly was also survived by two daughters, Jazmine Opdycke of McKee, and Hailey Hampton of McKee and by a grandson, Alex Ian Lee Hampton all of McKee. Other survivors include her siblings, Sandra Durham of Richmond, Anna Lewis Coulter of Somerset, Jessica Cody of Berea, Ronald Lewis, Kristie Estep and Christina Rose all of McKee.

Graveside services will be held 3:00 PM Saturday, July 23, 2022 at the Tal Martin Cemetery with Bro. John Gross officiating.

Lakes Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Lakes Funeral Home to help with Kelly's funeral.

### Sharon Gayle Blakley

November 10, 1967 - July 18, 2022

Sharon Gayle Blakley was born November 10, 1967, in Cincinnati, OH and departed this life Monday, July 18, 2022, at the Compassionate Care Center in Richmond, at the age of 54. She was the daughter of the late Clarence (Junior) King and Rosemary (Bowman) King.

Sharon is survived by four children, Jeffrey King of Charlotte, N.C., Michael (Crystal) Mueller of Corydon, IN, Jeremiah Mueller of Tyner, KY and Emily (Scott) Wright of Louisville, KY. She was blessed with five grandchildren, Jeremiah & Bella Mueller, Emma & Nora Wright and Landon Mueller.

In addition to her parents, Sharon was also preceded in death by her husband, William Blakley.

Graveside services will be held 12 Noon Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Lakes Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Rhonda Gail (Mullins) Lecompte

Rhonda Gail (Mullins) Lecompte was born June 3, 1970, in Madison County and departed this life Thursday, July 21, 2022, at her residence at the age of 52. She was the daughter of Bonnie (Powell) Daly of McKee and of the late Lloyd Mullins.

In addition to her mother, Rhonda was also survived by her daughter, Heather (Tyler) Bowman; by two grandsons, Robert & Liam Bowman and by her boyfriend, Kevin Boggs.

A memorial service may be held at a later date. Lakes Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Terry Ledford

January 13, 1966 - July 14, 2022

Terry Wayne Ledford was born January 13, 1966, in Knox County and departed this life Thursday, July 14, 2022, at the Baptist Health Hospital in Corbin at the age of 56. He was the son of the late Lester & Elizabeth (Cobb) Ledford.

Terry is survived by his son Nick (Jesslyn) Ledford of McKee; by a brother, Don (Linda) Ledford of Michigan and two sisters, Marlene Ledford of Washington and Vickie (David) Tarter of Ohio. He is also survived by Nick's mother Lyda Jo Hartsock.

Terry was blessed with two granddaughters, Gracelyn & Nyla Ledford.

In addition to his parents, Terry was also preceded in death by his sister, Donna Ledford; his mother-in-law, Ethelene Hartsock and her husband, Sherman Bray; his brother-in-law, Eddie Hartsock and sister-in-law, Elaine McQueen.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 PM Monday, July 18, 2022, at the Lakes Funeral Home with Bro. Keith Ledford and Wayne Carpenter officiating. Burial will follow in the Strong Cemetery in Owsley County. Pallbearers: Josh Spivey, Jordan Spivey, Cameron Vest, Rodney Harrison Kevin, Darren, Donnie & Allen Ledford.

Lakes Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Helen Parrett

June 4, 1947 - July 22, 2022

Helen Parrett was born June 4, 1947 and departed this life Friday July 22, 2022 at the Corbin Hospital being 75 years of age. She was the daughter of the late Charles Robinson and Eliza (Allen) Robinson.

Helen is survived by her husband Ray Parrett of McKee, Ky. and two children; Jerry Parrett and Lisa of McKee, Ky. and Jo Ann Parrett and Bert Murray. Also, by two grandchildren; Ryan & Rylee Parrett; by one sister Patricia Miller of McKee, Ky. and by a host of half brothers and sisters.

Other than her parents, Helen was preceded in death by one brother Earnest Robinson.

Funeral service for Helen Parrett 2:00 P.M. Monday July 25, 2022 at the Lakes Funeral Home in McKee, Kentucky with Bro. Pat Coffey and Bro. Shane Gabbard officiating with burial in the Seven Pines Cemetery. Pallbearers were Roger Parrett, Charles Jackson, James Angel, Bobby Hornsby, Jeff Huff, Keith Bowling, Mike Parrett and Chris Day.

Lakes Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements.



## Gov. Beshear Provides Team Kentucky Update

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 21, 2022) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear updated Kentuckians on the lowest unemployment rate in state history for the third consecutive month, a surplus in the General Fund budget, efforts to provide cleaner water, food benefits, work to address the water shortage in the City of Marion and COVID-19. He also named his communications director, Crystal Staley, as this week's Team Kentucky All-Star.

### Unemployment Rate Reaches Another Historic Low

The Governor reported that the commonwealth's June 2022 unemployment rate hit a new historic low of 3.7%, resulting in three back-to-back months of the lowest unemployment rates in Kentucky's history.

"While our families face a lot of challenges today – from the pandemic to the deadliest tornado we have ever seen, inflation and a war in Ukraine – it's important we remember that we are tough and we must have faith," Gov. Beshear said. "The challenges of today are what we have to push through to get to a bright and optimistic tomorrow where we are seeing more new jobs, investments and better wages than we have ever seen."

The number of people employed in June increased by 1,085 to 1,986,909 while the number of unemployed decreased by 1,811 to 77,193.

### Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund Budget Surplus Exceeds \$1 Billion

For the second year in a row, Kentucky's General Fund budget surplus has exceeded \$1 billion. The surplus for the year that just ended, fiscal year 2022, is \$1,033,445,597.

Revenues came in \$945 million higher than budgeted, the second-highest revenue surplus ever – surpassed only by last year's record amount. Lower spending than budgeted accounted for most of the rest of the surplus.

The budget bill includes a surplus spending plan. Nearly all of the \$1 billion surplus will go into Kentucky's Rainy Day fund. That will bring the fund up to a record balance of \$2.7 billion. The Rainy Day fund balance was \$129 million when Gov. Beshear took office.

The Road Fund ended the year with a \$70.4 million surplus. That is due to the General Assembly not appropriating all of the official revenue estimate. The \$70.4 million will be directed to spending on projects in the 2022-2024 biennial highway construction program.

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits

Gov. Beshear addressed inquiries from Kentuckians about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. During the last General Assembly session, the state Senate and House passed Senate Joint Resolution 150, significantly reducing food benefits. The Governor vetoed the resolution, but it was overridden.

The resolution cut roughly 611,000 Kentuckians off from additional SNAP support. The decision to cut SNAP benefits also affected 4,300 businesses and retailers where SNAP benefits are accepted.

"Hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians, including children and seniors, who get help with food assistance are seeing their benefits plunge, and it is a direct result of actions of our General Assembly this past session. Sadly, the majority of Kentucky lawmakers voted to reduce food benefits, even as our nation struggles with the biggest increase in food costs in decades. Payments to low-income Kentuckians and Kentucky families dropped in May when the General Assembly opted out of an ongoing federal program that made our state eligible for an increase in food-assistance. This resulted in nearly \$46 million of additional food dollars per month being lost to Kentuckians," Gov. Beshear said. "It has not only hurt the people in the communities, it has hurt 4,300 businesses and retailers where SNAP is accepted. I vetoed that legislation, I urged them, let's have more compassion than this."

### Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund

Earlier this month, Gov. Beshear announced \$3.25 million in funding from the Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund to the Graves County Grain Assistance Program.

"So many farmers depend on Mayfield Grain to market their grain. It is just devastating looking at the grain bins with the tops ripped off and legs tore down," Graves County farmer Phil Holloway said. "We just knew it wasn't going to be a one- or two-month fix. It was going to be a while."

"Grain is my livelihood. That's the way I make a living. Mayfield Grain being six miles from here is a real key to my operation," Graves County farmer Mitchell Guthrie said. "I'm afraid that without the Granary, some of these mom-and-pop farms would give up. We reached out to the Governor and he was willing to help us. He came up with some ideas to get our grain moved, pay labor and buy fuel. I appreciate the Governor taking time to hear us. That's very important. It's just unreal – the cooperation, and that people still care. That's a blessing to me and I'm proud to be a part of it."

The Graves County Grain Assistance Program was established when the administration was contacted by Graves County Judge/Executive Jesse Perry and local farmers. The group was concerned about the potential loss of crop yield and sought assistance for local farmers, who are an important part of ensuring the state has an ample grain supply.

Over 150,000 individuals and organizations from all over the world have contributed to the Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund, raising nearly \$52 million to assist in long-term recovery.

Donations to the fund are still being accepted. All donations to the Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund are tax-deductible and donors will receive a receipt for tax purposes after donating.

### Team Kentucky All-Stars

The Governor named his communications director, Crystal Staley, as this week's Team Kentucky All-Star. Staley oversees communications for the Governor's Office, as well as the executive branch's 12 cabinets. Last week, she was recognized as one of the 2022 Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government by the Kentucky Gazette. Gov. Beshear also wished her a happy early birthday.

"Crystal has worked in state government for 15 years and she is committed to making Kentucky a better place. She has worked day and night even while having a young family," Gov. Beshear said. "She is the hardest working, most dedicated team member and a good friend to everybody. Watching her and her team teaches me good lessons on leadership."

# FLAT ROCK MONUMENTS



Across from Lakes  
Funeral Home at the  
former McKee Monument.

Call us at  
(606) 287-3800

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