



KHSSL SR 2025 SEMIFINALS: NEWS PROGRAM PACKET

LEXINGTON

THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA, AND THE TERMINATOR HIMSELF – ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER – ONCE STATED THAT, “WHEN YOU CAMPAIGN AND HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN SO MANY DEBATES JUST TO THE WIN THE NOMINATION OF YOUR PARTY, YOU’VE HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE. YOU GET TO FIGURE OUT AS YOU GO FROM ONE DEBATE TO ANOTHER WHERE YOU MADE YOUR MISTAKES. BY THE TIME YOU GET TO THE BIG DEBATE YOU’RE PRETTY POLISHED.”

WITH TOPICS THAT RANGED FROM THE MORALITY OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPMENT TO LEGISLATION WRITTEN BY KENTUCKY’S STUDENTS THEMSELVES, THE YOUTH OF KENTUCKY’S HIGH SCHOOLS WERE PRETTY POLISHED INDEED BY THE END OF THE KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE’S ANNUAL STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT, ITS 105TH. TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY’S SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM HOSTED THE MEET ON CAMPUS SATURDAY (MARCH 1), AND LEXINGTON’S PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HS TOOK TOP HONORS FOR A SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR. ROUNDING OUT THE TOP SIX TEAMS WERE LEXINGTON LAFAYETTE, LEXINGTON HENRY CLAY, LOUISVILLE ASSUMPTION, LOUISVILLE



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TRINITY, AND LOUISVILLE WAGGENER. LAFAYETTE'S RILEY MURRAY WAS NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR; DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL WON THE TROPHY FOR SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE OVER TIME.

STUDENTS COMPETED IN FOUR PRELIMINARY ROUNDS WITH THE TOP FOUR ENTRIES ADVANCING TO SEMIFINALS IN VARSITY LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE, NOVICE LINCOLN- 2025 KHSSL STATE DEBATE RESULTS DOUGLAS, VARSITY PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE, AND NOVICE PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE. SIXTEEN FINALISTS ADVANCED TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE SUPERSESSION WITH HONORS AWARDED TO THE TOP SIX. SPEAKER AWARDS FOR THE TOP SIX PERFORMERS IN EACH OF THE DEBATE EVENTS WERE ALSO GIVEN. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS AND PLACINGS FOR EACH OF THE FIVE EVENTS ARE LISTED ON THE NEXT PAGES.

ADDITIONALLY, AT THE CEREMONY, LEXINGTON HENRY CLAY'S LONGTIME COACH RYAN RAY WAS INDUCTED INTO THE KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE'S HALL OF FAME.

THE SPEECH AND DEBATE SEASON IN KENTUCKY RUNS FROM OCTOBER TO JANUARY WITH 14 REGIONAL SPEECH TOURNAMENTS



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HELD IN FEBRUARY AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH TO QUALIFY FOR STATE FOLLOWED BY STATE JUNIOR SPEECH (GRADES 4-8), SENIOR SPEECH (GRADES 9-12), AND DEBATE (GRADES 4-12) TOURNAMENTS. STUDENTS COMPETE IN TWENTY SPEECH, DEBATE, AND DRAMA CATEGORIES FROM STORYTELLING TO CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE TO ORATORY IN THE SPEECH AND DEBATE DIVISIONS.





KHSSL OFFERS MEMBERSHIP TO ALL SCHOOLS -- PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND HOMESCHOOLS -- SERVING STUDENTS IN GRADES 4-12 IN KENTUCKY. WITH MEMBER SCHOOLS FROM PADUCAH TO PAINTSVILLE, KENTUCKY'S OLDEST STUDENT ACTIVITY TRAINS STUDENTS HOW TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN PUBLIC SETTINGS, HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY COMMUNICATE IDEAS, HOW TO EMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS VIA CHARACTER ANALYSIS, HOW TO READ CRITICALLY AND HOW TO RESEARCH PROPERLY WITH CONTESTS TO ENCOURAGE EXCELLENCE AND DEVELOP GRIT -- MIND OVER CHATTER. FOR MORE INFORMATION HOW TO GET YOUR STUDENTS AND SCHOOL INVOLVED, BROWSE TO WWW.KHSSL.ORG.



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WEATHER:

Today:

LOUISVILLE	LEXINGTON	COVINGTON	BOWLING GREEN
			
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PIKEVILLE:

SEVERAL EYEWITNESSES IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF EASTERN KENTUCKY REPORTED SEEING A STRANGE, CYLINDRICAL UFO HOVER FOR TWO HOURS IN CLEAR SKIES LAST WEEK, BUT AN AMATEUR ASTRONOMER'S STRIKING VIDEO AND IMAGES OF THE OBJECT ARE NOW COMING TO LIGHT.

ASTRONOMER ALLEN EPLING WAS AT HOME LAST FRIDAY WHEN ONE OF HIS VISITORS SAID THERE WAS A STRANGE AIRPLANE IN THE SKY, REPORTS THE APPALACHIAN NEWS-EXPRESS.

ACCORDING TO CBS AFFILIATE WYMT-TV, EPLING SAID THE OBJECT "LOOKED LIKE TWO FLUORESCENT BULBS, SIDE BY SIDE, PARALLEL, SHINING VERY BRIGHTLY. IT WOULD GET SO BRIGHT THEY WOULD SEEM TO MERGE, AND YOU COULD SEE IT VERY CLEARLY WITH THE NAKED EYE. THEN IT WOULD DIM DOWN ALMOST INVISIBLE."

KENTUCKY STATE POLICE TOLD THE APPALACHIAN NEWS-EXPRESS THAT THERE WERE FIVE CALLS ABOUT THE OBJECT IN PIKEVILLE, WHICH WAS ALSO SEEN FROM OTHER KENTUCKY TOWNS.



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ATHENS, GA. –

NO. 10 KENTUCKY (5-4, 2-3 SEC) BEGINS THE FINAL MONTH OF THE 2025 REGULAR GYMNASTICS SEASON ON SUNDAY EVENING, TRAVELING TO ATHENS FOR A TOP TEN BATTLE AGAINST NO. 9 GEORGIA (4-5, 2-3 SEC). THE DUAL IS SLATED TO BEGIN AT 6 P.M. ET FROM STEGEMAN COLISEUM AND WILL BE TELEVISED LIVE ON THE SEC NETWORK WITH ALEX PERLMAN AND ANASTASIA WEBB ON THE CALL. THE WILDCATS TRAVEL TO THE CLASSIC CITY ON THE HEELS OF FOUR STRAIGHT MEETS WITH A TEAM SCORE OVER 197 POINTS. THE CATS HAVE BROKEN THAT BARRIER IN FIVE MEETS THIS SEASON, ALL COMING IN THE LAST SIX MEETS. KENTUCKY IS STILL LOOKING TO BEST ITS SEASON BEST 197.300 SET ON JANUARY 17 AGAINST ALABAMA.

GEORGIA ENTERS SUNDAY'S CONTEST AS A TOP TEN TEAM FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2020, SETTING A SEASON HIGH SCORE OF 197.350 AT MISSOURI LAST FRIDAY. THE GYMDAWGS HAVE STEADILY GROWN THROUGHOUT 2025, SCORING OVER 197 IN EACH OF THE LAST THREE MEETS AND SETTING NEW SEASON BESTS IN EVERY WEEK EXCEPT FOR ONE. GEORGIA RANKS IN THE TOP TEN ON A PAIR OF APPARATUS, SLOTTING AT NO. 7 ON BARS AND NO. 8 ON BEAM.



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THE CATS ARE 7-96-1 ALL-TIME AGAINST GEORGIA AND HAVE NEVER WON IN ATHENS. THE CATS FIRST DEFEATED GEORGIA AT THE 2018 SEC CHAMPIONSHIPS AND HAVE SINCE WON SIX OF THE LAST SEVEN MEETINGS DATING BACK TO 2022, WITH THE LONE LOSS COMING IN ATHENS IN 2023.

FOLLOWING SUNDAY, THE CATS WILL FACE A SHORT TURNAROUND AND RETURN TO HISTORIC MEMORIAL COLISEUM FOR THEIR FINAL HOME MEET OF THE SEASON, HOSTING ARKANSAS ON FRIDAY, MARCH 7. FIRST VAULT IS SET FOR 7 P.M. AND THE MEET WILL BE STREAMED LIVE ON SEC NETWORK +. THE MEET WILL ALSO SERVE AS SENIOR NIGHT FOR KENTUCKY'S SIX GYMNASTS IN THEIR FINAL SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY. TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE ON TICKETMASTER.



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COMMERCIAL PROMPT:

VISIT THE BOWLING GREEN HOT RODS.

- PROFESSIONAL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME WHILE VISITING BG!
- AFFORDABLE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT TO THE STATE-OF-THE-ART DOWNTOWN BALLPARK.
- AFFILIATED WITH THE TAMPA RAYS, THEY PLAY AROUND 70 HOME GAMES EACH SEASON, EACH ONE FUELED FOR FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.
- TICKETS START AT \$8 AND CHILDREN 2 AND UNDER ARE FREE FOR EVERY GAME!
- DON'T MISS THIS COMBINATION OF FUTURE MAJOR LEAGUE STARS AND AFFORDABLE HOMETOWN ENTERTAINMENT.
- BE SURE TO CHECK THE CALENDAR FOR FIREWORKS NIGHTS AND OTHER SPECIAL PROMOTIONS ON THE WEBSITE OR ON FACEBOOK.



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HENDERSON, KY.

KENTUCKY GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR RESPONDED AFTER HUNDREDS OF WEATHER FORECASTERS WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WERE FIRED THIS WEEK.

FEDERAL WORKERS WHO WERE NOT LET GO SAY THE LAYOFFS INCLUDE METEOROLOGISTS WHO DO CRUCIAL LOCAL FORECASTS IN OFFICES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THE FIRINGS COME AMID EFFORTS BY BILLIONAIRE ELON MUSK AND HIS DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY TO SHRINK THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE.

"THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION LAYING OFF NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECASTERS MAKES US LESS SAFE," SAID GOVERNOR BESHEAR. "WE'VE HAD 13 FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTERS SINCE I'VE BEEN GOVERNOR. THIS LAST ONE TOOK THE LIVES OF 23 PEOPLE. IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE LIVES OF SO MANY MORE BUT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PREDICTED IT. WE HAD OVER A WEEK TO GET BOAT CREWS OUT. THEY MADE A THOUSAND RESCUES IN 24 HOURS. WITHOUT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, IT WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED."

ELON MUSK HAS REPEATEDLY DEFENDED FEDERAL WORKFORCE CUTS AS "COMMON SENSE."



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LEXINGTON

JOANN FABRICS REPORTED EARLIER THIS MONTH ABOUT 300 OF THE COMPANY'S ROUGHLY 850 STORES WOULD REMAIN OPEN, INCLUDING THE STORE IN LEXINGTON, BUT HAS SINCE ANNOUNCED ALL STORES WILL CLOSE, PENDING COURT APPROVAL. THE LOUISVILLE LOCATION WAS ALSO SET TO REMAIN OPEN, BUT WILL BE CLOSING. THE COMPANY FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY TWICE IN LESS THAN A YEAR, CITING INVENTORY SHORTAGES AS A REASON.

CLOSING SALES WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY PENDING COURT APPROVAL, THE COMPANY'S WEBSITE SAYS. SALES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN AT SOME LOCATIONS THAT WERE PART OF THE ORIGINAL 500 CLOSING, INCLUDING SEVERAL IN OTHER PARTS OF KENTUCKY.

JOANN FABRICS STORES ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTING RETURNS, AND GIFT CARDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED THROUGH FRIDAY, WTHR REPORTED. SHOPPING IS STILL AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN STORES.



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MURRAY

WKU FORENSICS CLINCHED THE TOP SPOT AT THE 2025 KENTUCKY FORENSICS ASSOCIATION, HOSTED BY MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY ON FEBRUARY 7-9.

AFTER BEING CANCELLED IN 2024, THE KENTUCKY FORENSICS ASSOCIATION RETURNED IN 2025 WITH A NEW FORMAT. MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY, WHICH TRADITIONALLY HOSTS ITS JACKSON PURCHASE TOURNAMENT IN FEBRUARY, ADDED AWARDS FOR THE KENTUCKY FORENSICS ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TO THEIR TOURNAMENT. SCHOOLS FROM OTHER STATES WERE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE AT THE TOURNAMENT, BUT THE TOP FINISHER FROM THE STATE OF KENTUCKY TOOK HOME THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

STUDENTS FROM WKU FORENSICS WON THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN ALL 14 VARSITY EVENTS ACROSS SPEECH AND DEBATE. ANTONINA CLEMENTI OF LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, WAS NAMED THE TOP SPEAKER IN VARSITY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC DEBATE AND CHRISTIAN BUTTERFIELD OF BOWLING GREEN,



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KENTUCKY, WON QUADRATHON, AN AWARD FOR ACCUMULATING THE MOST POINTS IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS.

CLEMENTI ALSO WAS RECOGNIZED WITH THE HARLAN HAMM AWARD, GIVEN TO STUDENTS FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE BOTH IN COMPETITION AND IN THEIR ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE. THIS HONOR WAS BESTOWED ON ONLY TWO STUDENTS IN THE STATE THIS SEASON.

WKU WON FIRST IN KFA BOTH INDIVIDUAL EVENT AND DEBATE SWEEPSTAKES (TIED) AND ULTIMATELY WAS NAMED THE KENTUCKY FORENSICS ASSOCIATION GRAND CHAMPION FOR THE 32ND CONSECUTIVE YEAR, AN UNPARALLELED RECORD OF EXCELLENCE IN STATE COMPETITION.