



What's New in Kentucky

Arts & Culture

Kentucky Center for Performing Arts renovation nears completion - Kentucky Performing Arts' \$4 million renovation of the Kentucky Center's Front Plaza is expected to be completed by late October. The two-phase project addresses 40 years of wear on the 1983-opened venue. Despite winter weather delays, the center has remained open, ensuring continued access for patrons. This structural replacement aims to enhance pre- and post-show experiences, with future plans for "behind the scenes" updates to benefit performers at this top Louisville attraction.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2025/05/16/kentucky-center-details-4m-renovations.html>

Kentucky Center for African American Heritage commemorates Black jockeys - A new exhibit, "Reflections N Black – Kentucky Derby Jockeys," has opened at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, features quilts by Eugene Poole Jr. These vibrant, full-scale quilts commemorate Black jockeys who were instrumental in the early Kentucky Derby. Poole meticulously researches each jockey and their racing silks, aiming to permanently stitch their overlooked contributions into history through his textile artistry. Located in Louisville, the Center is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

<https://www.lpm.org/news/2025-04-17/quilts-show-black-kentucky-derby-jockeys-in-full-color-and-scale>

Kentucky State Capitol adds four new portraits to “Kentucky Women Remembered” exhibit – Gov. Andy Beshear and Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman helped unveil the portraits of the four newest inductees to the Kentucky Women Remembered exhibit at the Kentucky State Capitol. The exhibition features portraits honoring inspiring women who have significantly contributed to the Commonwealth's history and development. This year's inductees include civil rights activist Alberta Jones, poet laureate Ada Limón, author Kim Michele Richardson, and sculptor Amanda Matthews.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/human-interest/2025/03/31/2025-ky-women-remembered-portraits>

Kentucky site added to National Underground Railroad Network - A historic Greenup County site, where 58 enslaved people revolted in 1829, has joined the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. The group, being forcibly marched to Mississippi, killed two traffickers before 16 attempted escape; all were recaptured, and five later executed. In addition to highlighting a forgotten chapter in history, this designation makes the site eligible for federal grants and preservation assistance.

<https://www.kentucky.com/news/state/kentucky/article305739391.html>

Kentucky town embraces ‘Celtic Village’ theme – Hazel Green, located in the heart of eastern Kentucky, is undergoing a significant revitalization effort centered around a "Celtic Village" project. The initiative aims to transform the town's identity and boost its local economy, drawing inspiration from a previous economic impact study that suggested a themed village. Residents and local leaders are actively involved in the project, with plans including a Celtic festival and students learning folk dances.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/hazel-green-kentucky-gets-makeover-020000541.html?guccounter=1>

Behringer-Crawford Museum celebrates 75th anniversary with new exhibition – After a temporary closure, the Behringer-Crawford Museum reopened to the public with a new exhibition aimed at celebrating the Covington museum's 75-years of devotion to art, culture and community. The museum-wide exhibit will highlight the key moments in the museum's journey, the visionaries behind its growth, and some of the most cherished collections and exhibits.

<https://nkytribune.com/2025/02/behringer-crawford-museum-reopens-with-historic-anniversary-exhibit-75-years-in-the-making/>

Bold new exhibit comes to National Quilt Museum - The National Quilt Museum presents Victoria Findlay Wolfe: Option Expedition, showcasing the award-winning artist's bold, innovative quilting. Known for her striking designs and creative techniques, Wolfe pushes boundaries in modern quilting. This exhibit, which runs through September 2025, highlights her exploration of color, pattern, and improvisation, inspiring quilters and art lovers alike. Don't miss this stunning display of contemporary quilting mastery. <https://quiltmuseum.org/victoria-findlay-wolfe-option-expedition/>

National Corvette Museum debuts new photography exhibit – In March 2025 the National Corvette Museum opened an exhibit featuring Richard Prince photography. The exhibit displays more than 40 different pieces on various media. It also showcases rarely seen Corvettes along with the photos. This unique combination of art and automobiles will offer visitors a fresh perspective on the iconic American sports car. <https://www.corvetteblogger.com/2024/12/18/the-national-corvette-museum-to-host-a-richard-prince-photography-exhibit-in-2025/>

Bluegrass Heritage Museum celebrates 20th anniversary – Over 80 people gathered on the patio of the Bluegrass Heritage Museum recently to cap off a year's long celebration of its 20th anniversary. The museum explores many eras, ranging from the Eskippakithiki Indian Village, to Daniel Boone and his settlement of Boonesboro, and to the modern day. <https://www.winchestersun.com/2024/10/18/museum-celebrates-20th-anniversary/>

Trigg County unveils new Pig statue – Trigg County unveiled a new 10-foot-tall pig statue. Named Cadi, the statue features painted images stitched together like a quilt. The images contain agricultural scenes and landmarks such as Land Between the Lakes and Lake Barkley State Resort. It also pays homage to the county's annual Country Ham Festival. <https://whopam.com/2024/10/10/the-cadiz-trigg-county-big-pig-now-has-a-name/>

Bernheim Forest unveiled new large-scale outdoor art experience – Bernheim Forest and Arboretum has opened a new art experience called L+A+N+D, which stands for Landscape + Art + Nature + Design, the exhibit features large-scale outdoor installations that explore the human connection to nature, sustainability, climate, and other environmental issues. https://www.thenewsenterprise.com/news/local/l-a-n-d-at-bernheim-merges-art-nature/article_be62ffb8-943e-5e61-8b72-beec593d3425.html

Attractions

Louisville Zoo opens new Dinopalooza attraction - Dinopalooza is open at the Louisville Zoo through September 1, 2025. This immersive experience features 19 animatronic dinosaurs, including a massive 65-foot Brachiosaurus and a 40-foot Tyrannosaurus rex. Visitors can also engage in an interactive dig pit to uncover dinosaur fossils. Dinopalooza is included with general Zoo admission and is free for Zoo members, offering prehistoric fun daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2025/05/13/dinopalooza-at-louisville-zoo>

John James Audubon State Park launches family friendly gnome-themed scavenger hunt - The "Gnomes of Audubon Forest" Scavenger Hunt Experience has launched at John James Audubon State Park. This free, self-guided adventure invites visitors to find ten hidden gnome homes, each with a unique gnome character and QR code for a special message. Participants use clues to locate the homes, and those who find all ten can claim a prize at the Audubon Museum & Nature Center gift shop. The experience blends nature, storytelling, art, and education. <https://hendersonky.org/press-release/gnomes-of-audubon-forest-scavenger-hunt-experience-launches-at-john-james-audubon-state-park/>

Louisville opens \$15 million Riverfront Park for play and learning - A new \$15 million "PlayPort" has officially opened at Louisville Waterfront Park. This 3.5-acre interactive playground, part of the park's Phase IV expansion, offers STEM-based learning through custom-built equipment from repurposed materials. It celebrates the Ohio River's heritage with authentic artifacts converted into play structures. Developed in partnership with the Kentucky Science Center, PlayPort includes educational signage and QR codes linking to science activity videos, providing an inclusive and engaging experience for all ages. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2025/03/26/interactive-15m-playground-opens-at-louisville-waterfront-park/82237204007/>

Dinosaur World opens new indoor exhibit 'Jurassic Jungle' - The Jurassic Jungle exhibit at Dinosaur World in Cave City, Kentucky, invites visitors on an unforgettable adventure through a prehistoric habitat. This immersive experience allows guests of all ages to encounter and discover hidden wonders of a long-past world. As daring explorers, participants unearth mysteries amidst life-sized dinosaurs, making it an engaging and educational journey into the age of giants. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/events/things-to-do/2025/04/05/dinosaur-world-in-cave-city-kentucky-what-to-know-about-the-park/82600301007/>

USA Today names National Corvette Museum second best attraction for car lovers - The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green secured second place in USA Today's 2025 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for "Best Attractions for Car Lovers." Recognized for its impressive collection of over 70 Corvettes, interactive exhibits, and racing simulator, the museum continues to be a premier destination for automotive enthusiasts. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/events/things-to-do/2025/05/19/national-corvette-museum-2025-usa-today-readers-choice-awards/83645430007/>

Kentucky Kingdom debuts new park section 'Discovery Meadow' — Kentucky Kingdom unveiled Discovery Meadow, a new section featuring three new rides and eleven reimaged attractions with fresh storylines. This new addition is part of a \$25 million investment planned over the next two seasons. The area also boasts new restaurants, a playground, and retail shops, all designed with customer feedback in mind. Celebrating Kentucky's nature and animals, Discovery Meadow aims to provide an immersive experience for guests. The park is seven days a week through Labor Day weekend. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/tripideas/kentucky-kingdom-s-new-land-discovery-meadow-now-open/ar-AA1EVJCQ?apiversion=v2&noservercache=1&domshim=1&renderwebcomponents=1&wcseo=1&batcheserv telemetry=1&noservertelemetry=1>

Owensboro to spend \$18 million transforming old mall into family entertainment center - An \$18 million project is underway to transform Owensboro's former Towne Square Mall into an indoor/outdoor family entertainment center called TS Entertainment. Preliminary state tourism tax approval was granted for the multi-concept venue, which will feature indoor golf, laser tag, bowling, an arcade, go-karts, and a playground, plus an indoor lawn for events. Development on the site began in spring 2025 and is projected to conclude by April 2026, aiming to draw a significant portion of visitors from outside Kentucky. <https://www.owensborotimes.com/news/2025/03/local-group-planning-to-turn-former-towne-square-mall-into-family-entertainment-center/>

Combination taproom and indoor pickleball venue to open in Lexington – A new taproom and indoor pickleball facility, PKL Lex, is opening in Lexington in Summer 2025. Country Boy Brewing is partnering with PKL Lex to feature a taproom with 24 unique brews, a full bar, and a restaurant offering high-end pub food and BBQ. The facility will include nine indoor pickleball courts and golf simulator bays. <https://www.wkyt.com/2025/02/04/new-taproom-indoor-pickleball-facility-open-lexington-this-spring/>

Louisville based CBD producers to give tours of Louisville facility – Louisville based CBD company, Cornbread Hemp, plans to start giving tours of its production facility. Similar to a distillery tour, the Cornbread Hemp tour will allow visitors an up-close look at how their favorite CBD gummies are made as well as showcase Kentucky's hemp industry. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/money/companies/2025/01/31/cornbread-hemp-opens-hemp-tourism-facility-in-kentucky-sell-new-products-cannabis-medical-marijuana/76568839007/>

Owensboro Racing and Gaming opens for business – Owensboro Racing and Gaming had its grand opening in February 2025. Located on Highway 60 just outside of Owensboro, the new facility boasts 600 historical racing machines, a retail sportsbook, simulcast wagering and a restaurant. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/owensboro-racing-gaming-officially-opens-202235436.html>

Five Kentucky counties introduce new train experience — The Bluegrass Train Experience launched in October 2024 with collaboration across five communities and tourism offices, all of which boast a historic train presence. The latest passport program includes Oldham County, Bardstown, Woodford County, McCreary County and Warren County. The experience offers 13 train experiences ranging from a museum on wheels, train rides through the countryside, historic diner trains, and one of the newest interactive Kentucky attractions, the Rail Explorers®. <https://www.lanereport.com/177391/2024/10/bluegrass-train-experience-is-new-ky-tourism-passport-project/>

New passport program highlights Horses, Horsepower and Hollers attractions across six counties – “Horses, Horsepower and Hollers” is a new initiative aimed at giving visitors an authentic Kentucky experience. By using one of the itineraries on the initiative website, tourists can visit unique Kentucky destinations such as National Corvette Museum and Cumberland Falls State Park. Visitors can register for the digital pass, and track visits to earn points and be entered into a sweepstakes. <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2024/04/04/kentucky-tourism-initiative-horses-horsepower-hollers-https://www.kytripleh.com/>

National Corvette Museum Debuts New Pop Culture Exhibit - The National Corvette Museum's new pop culture exhibit discusses the Corvette's appearances in movies, music, and literature. The exhibit features cars from TV shows like Hawaii Five-0 and movies like Transformers. It also highlights celebrities who owned Corvettes, such as Reggie Jackson and Jim Lowell. The exhibit will run throughout 2025. <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2024/10/23/national-corvette-museum-pop-culture-https://www.kytripleh.com/>

Nine Counties Take Part in new Kentucky Garden Trail — Nine Kentucky counties have teamed up to form a botanical adventure that allows visitors to discover gorgeous gardens across the Bluegrass State. From exquisite plant collections to historic sites and monuments, each garden offers its own distinct experience worth enjoying. Passports are available to help visitors keep track of all the landscapes, flowers, and historical sites they discover along the way. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2024/11/14/kentucky-garden-trail-see-the-full-guide-for-all-12-stops/75649052007/>

New Kentucky Black Trailblazers Project Uses Augmented Reality — The Kentucky Black Trailblazers Project is a collaborative effort between six Kentucky counties that uses augmented reality to bring Kentucky's Black history to life. Visitors can use their mobile devices to experience holograms of Kentucky historical figures at more than six sites across the region. <https://www.lpm.org/news/2024-07-23/historical-black-kentuckians-tell-their-stories-in-new-augmented-reality-experience>

Bourbon

*See the separate document, [What's New in Kentucky Bourbon](#), for a list of new and expanded bourbon experiences.

Culinary

Lexington restaurant reopens in time for warm weather - Azur Restaurant and Patio, a long-standing Lexington establishment, reopened in May after a five-month closure due to lease negotiations. The revamped Azur will feature a new chef, Nathan Vazquez, who plans to infuse the menu with Puerto Rican influences while retaining popular staples like bourbon fried chicken. The restaurant will initially offer dinner and Sunday brunch. <https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/restaurants/article306476821.html>

Kentucky food and culture highlighted in new docuseries - Ouita Michel, award winning chef, restaurateur and Kentucky native, is the subject of a new docuseries that is set to premiere at the ATX TV Festival in Austin, Texas and the Tribeca Festival in New York City. The eight-episode show, entitled "You Belong Here," explores Kentucky's diverse food and culture. Michel travels the state, conversing with chefs and farmers, aiming to present a more nuanced view of Kentucky than typically seen in national media. A worldwide release date has not been set. <https://www.kentucky.com/entertainment/tv-movies/article306724931.html>

Kentucky chefs named James Beard Awards finalists - Two Kentucky chefs are finalists for the 2025 James Beard Awards' "Best Chef: Southeast": Sara Bradley, with Freight House, Paducah and Noam Bilitzer of MeeshMeesh Mediterranean, Louisville. Bradley widely known for her "Top Chef" run and Bilitzer for his restaurant's acclaim—are among five vying for the honor, with winners announced June 16 in Chicago. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/04/02/2025-james-beard-awards-finalists-kentucky-noam-bilitzer-sara-bradley/82704040007/>

Goodwood Brewing and Spirits opens new location on Whiskey Row – Goodwood Brewing and Sprits has opened another venue in the W. L. Weller Building on West Main Street in downtown Louisville. The 20,000-square foot space features live music, a sports bar as well as Goodwood's craft beer and line of wine and spirits. Goodwood Whiskey Row also includes the Blade & Bow Suite which is a three-bedroom short-term rental property located on the top floor of the venue. <https://www.brewbound.com/pr/2025/02/10/goodwood-whiskey-row-now-open>

Several restaurants open shop in Louisville throughout the early spring - March saw a dynamic shift in Louisville's restaurant scene, with several new establishments opening their doors. Among the notable additions are Bourré Bonne Steakhouse for fine dining, Chubby Ninja for Asian fusion and all-you-can-eat sushi, and Khao Boys offering Thai-inspired Mediterranean cuisine. Other new spots include Mi Ranchito Grill's second location, M. Peppers French bistro, and Smash'D Burger Bar. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/03/31/5-restaurants-opened-2-closed-in-march-in-louisville-what-to-know/82417858007/>

House of Marigold restaurant in Louisville to open second location – After two years of success on Shelbyville Road, popular brunch spot, House of Marigold, will open a second location in Norton Commons in July 2025. The House of Marigold is a family owned, female owned, and black owned business that has been serving a rotating menu of locally sourced cuisine and beverages. <https://www.wlky.com/article/house-of-marigold-open-norton-commons/63424731>

New two-level cocktail bar, Passenger set to open in Louisville – The owners of Darlings, a popular Louisville bar, announced the opening of Passenger, a two-level bar complete with a courtyard. The new location on Logan Street will open in summer 2025. Passenger features an open layout, garage doors for indoor/outdoor flow, and exposed brick. They plan to partner with a restaurant for food service. Passenger will offer both upscale cocktails and casual drinks, filling a niche between nearby bars. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/01/24/passenger-new-bar-from-owners-of-darlings-to-open-in-louisville/77848353007/>

High-end restaurant Cypress & Oak opens in downtown Frankfort – Cypress & Oak is open for business on E. Broadway Street in Frankfort. Operating independently in the same building as the newly opened Delegate Hotel, Cypress & Oak offers fine dining in an elegant steakhouse setting.

https://www.state-journal.com/business/cypress-oak-offers-an-atmospheric-dining-experience/article_f079ae2e-b1a7-11ef-9d2a-e3d2f90f10f3.html

Louisville Brewery to move to NuLu neighborhood – After eight years on Baxter Avenue in Phoenix Hill, Gravely Brewing Co. is relocating its taproom to NuLu, marking a significant move for the popular Louisville brewery. Gravely will continue production at its original address. Also making the move with the taproom will be Eliana's Hondouran Cafe, which currently operates at the Baxter Avenue location. The move is expected to be completed by Summer 2025.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2025/05/13/gravely-taproom-relocating.html?i=39852915&senddate=2025-05-13>

Mirror Twin Brewing to open second location in Lexington - Mirror Twin Brewing is opening a second location in Lexington in September 2025. The new taproom will be located on Old Harrodsburg Road and will feature wood-fired pizza from Rolling Oven. The brewery will also serve cocktails.

<https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/bourbon/article299227079.html>

Michelin-starred chefs open Byrdie's restaurant in Louisville - Byrdie's, the new Louisville restaurant from Michelin-starred Chef Jenner Tomaska and Katrina Bravo (of Chicago's Esmé), has quickly become a hot spot. Located in Hotel Genevieve, the chic restaurant offers a menu blending French elegance and Southern soul. Dishes range from deviled eggs and fried oysters to a dry-aged duck for two. A robust cocktail menu and French wine list complement the cuisine.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/01/03/first-look-at-byrdies-french-restaurant-now-open-in-louisville/77055167007/>

Dirty Bird fried chicken restaurant opens in Louisville – Dirty Bird, a new restaurant located at 1022 Clarks Lane, features quirky décor, including a red-eyed rooster mascot, honky-tonk vibes, and a future mechanical chicken ride. Co-owner Allan Rosenberg, known for Hauck's Corner and Breakfast AF, has long dreamed of a fried chicken spot. The menu includes whole, half, or quarter chickens, plus dishes with cheeky names like "What Up Shawty" (short rib sandwich). With room for 165 guests and a lively atmosphere, Dirty Bird opened for business in February 2025, bringing bold flavors and fun to Louisville.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2025/02/06/dirty-bird-fried-chicken-restaurant-to-open-in-louisville/78221710007/>

The Thai House restaurant opens new location in Lexington - The Thai House has opened in Lexington at 911 Winchester Road. The new restaurant is owned and operated by Sarayuth "Paul" Sanaajhan, owner of Georgetown-based Thai House. The restaurant features the same menu as the Georgetown location, offering Thai favorites like Pad Thai, Drunken Noodles, Pad Kapow, fried rice, curries, noodle soups and more.

<https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/restaurants/article296017774.html>

Lexington's Greyline Station adds new restaurant - A taste of Detroit has arrived in Lexington! Thea's Bass & Biddy Kitchen, led by former teacher Thea Mason, is now open at Greyline Station, serving up crispy fried chicken, fish, burgers, and more. With karaoke nights and brunch, it's more than a meal, it's an experience! <https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/restaurants/article296171614.html>

Chaney's Dairy Barn Completes huge expansion – Chaney's Dairy Barn in Bowling Green, KY, has completed a \$2.6 million, 10,000-square-foot expansion. The project includes a new dining area, separate ice cream parlor, viewing area for ice cream making, and a back deck leading to the playground. Owner Carl Chaney aims to improve customer service and accommodate Bowling Green's future growth.

<https://www.wbko.com/2024/09/05/chaneys-dairy-barn-expansion-nears-completion/>

Silver Dollar in Louisville gets new owner and new menu - The Silver Dollar, a Louisville institution, has reopened under new ownership. Brian Downing, the new owner and general manager, has made changes to the restaurant, including a refreshed menu focused on Tejano cuisine. The restaurant also boasts a curated whiskey and bourbon list, alongside innovative cocktails.

<https://www.leoweekly.com/food-drink/louisvilles-iconic-silver-dollar-gets-a-new-owner-and-refreshed-menu-16739405>

New Pizzeria opens on the site of historic Hopkinsville building - The Crusty Pig, a new Neapolitan-style pizza restaurant, is set to open in downtown Hopkinsville. Owners Mallory Lawrence, Mindy Hargrove, and Margaret Prim are revitalizing a former garage. The restaurant, featuring a logo by Grace Snowden, will offer diverse pizzas, salads, and sandwiches, utilizing local ingredients. It's a key addition to downtown's growth, blending history with fresh, local flavors. <https://hoptownchronicle.org/this-slice-of-downtown-has-a-new-purpose-as-a-pizza-restaurant/>

Horses

Keeneland picked to host 2026 Breeders' Cup World Championship - The Breeders' Cup World Championships will return to Keeneland in Lexington, Kentucky, on October 30-31, 2026. This marks the fourth time Keeneland will host the prestigious event. The track is undergoing a significant \$100+ million capital construction project, including a new Paddock Building, to enhance the fan experience. The championships will coincide with major Thoroughbred auctions, solidifying central Kentucky's role as the Horse Capital of the World. <https://www.wlky.com/article/breeders-cup-world-championship-kentucky-2026/64904296>

Kentucky Derby Museum to open Winner's Circle exhibit in June 2025 - The Kentucky Derby Museum is unveiling its updated Winner's Circle exhibit in early June, honoring Sovereignty, the 151st Kentucky Derby champion. Artist Mike Prather has meticulously crafted a life-sized replica of Sovereignty, capturing its unique dark coppery color and distinct blaze using a multi-layered painting technique. This exhibit, alongside an updated lobby banner and a \$2 million refreshed "The Greatest Race" film, aims to showcase Sovereignty's historic win to hundreds of thousands of visitors. <https://www.wlky.com/article/kentucky-derby-museum-completion-of-winners-circle-exhibit-sovereignty/64918429>

Kentucky Derby Museum unveils updated 360° film - The Kentucky Derby Museum completed the upgrade to its 360° film, "The Greatest Race," for its 40th anniversary in 2025. The \$2.3 million project, led by Donna Lawrence Productions, features new footage, advanced lighting, and a state-of-the-art playback system. The revamped film is an immersive experience with a fresh perspective on the Derby. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/events/kentucky-derby/2025/04/11/kentucky-derby-museum-2-million-project-upgrades-360-degree-immersive-film-light-show/78191972007/>

The Kentucky Derby Museum turns 40 in 2025 - The Kentucky Derby Museum celebrated its 40th anniversary in April 2025. The museum has welcomed over 7.2 million guests since 1985. Dedicated to preserving Derby history, the museum has invested \$10 million in recent upgrades, including a \$2.3 million enhancement to its signature 360-degree film. <https://www.wave3.com/2025/04/11/kentucky-derby-museum-announces-multimillion-upgrade-greatest-race/>

Construction underway for quarter-horse track in Boyd County — Construction has begun on the \$10 million Sandy Ridge Racetrack in Ashland, KY. The facility will be Kentucky's only quarter horse track. It's expected to create hundreds of jobs and boost local economy. The track, set to open in 2026, will host races and other events. The track will be an addition to \$70 million gaming facility that opened in 2024. <https://www.wsaz.com/2025/04/22/construction-progress-update-sandy-ridge-racetrack/>

Old Friends adds six new horses to its paddocks - Old Friends, the renowned Thoroughbred retirement farm in Georgetown, Kentucky, has welcomed six new graded-stakes winners to its paddocks. These equine athletes, Count Again, Delaunay, Mission Impazible, Normandy Invasion, Rainbow Heir, and Warrior's Reward, have earned their place among the farm's celebrated residents. Each horse brings a unique racing history and adds to the rich tapestry of champions cared for at Old Friends. <https://paulickreport.com/horse-care-category/old-friends-welcomes-six-graded-stakes-winners-for-retirement>

Churchill Downs completes massive renovation of grandstand and pavilion ahead of Derby - Churchill Downs completed an \$80-\$90 million renovation project ahead of Derby 151, transforming the grandstand and pavilion. This massive upgrade replaces old bleachers with 8,300 new comfortable seating options, including stadium-style seats and rail boxes. The project also enhances amenities with new concessions, bars, and wagering windows, creating an upscale outdoor garden environment. These improvements aim to provide an elevated guest experience while honoring Churchill Downs' rich history. https://www.wdrb.com/derby_events/churchill-downs-crews-finishing-80-million-courtyard-pavilion-project-ahead-of-derby-151/article_813feb2-5425-4a6f-9461-2b6b159649c0.html

Mustang Classic competition returns to Kentucky Horse Park - The Mustang Classic returns to Kentucky in September 2025, offering over \$125,000 in cash and prizes. Open to adult adopters of wild Mustangs from the Bureau of Land Management, the competition showcases the versatility and trainability of these horses. Exhibitors compete in various disciplines, with the top ten advancing to the Championship Finals for a chance to win the \$50,000 grand prize. <https://www.americanhorsepubs.org/newsgroup/mustang-classic-returns-to-kentucky-in-2025-with-over-125000-in-total-cash-and-prizes/>

Renovations at Keeneland are underway - Keeneland racetrack is undergoing a major \$93 million expansion project, the largest in its history. Construction began in January 2024 and is expected to be completed by September 2025. The project includes a new Paddock Building with dining, bar concepts, and a rooftop area, as well as improved saddling stalls. This expansion aims to enhance the visitor experience, increase seating capacity, and modernize the track while maintaining its historic charm. <https://www.kentucky.com/sports/horses/keeneland/article293222264.html>
<https://www.sportstravelmagazine.com/keeneland-race-course-plans-93-million-in-upgrades/>

Hotels & Lodging

New Trail Hotel in Bardstown offers luxury to bourbon enthusiasts - Bardstown, Kentucky's new Trail Hotel is a bourbon lover's dream, featuring five unique bars including the speakeasy Bourbon Vault. This ninety-five-room property offers eight bourbon-themed suites and a dedicated Bourbon Butler service to arrange distillery tours and tastings along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, with a daily trolley for convenience. Additional amenities include a golf simulator, IV drips, and a Southern-inspired steakhouse, all designed to immerse guests in the bourbon experience. <https://gardenandgun.com/feature/bardstowns-newest-hotel-is-a-bourbon-lovers-dream/>

New Homewood Suites opens in Newport - Homewood Suites by Hilton has opened in Newport's Ovation district, a \$1 billion, 130-acre mixed-use development. The hotel offers 126 suites with fully equipped kitchens, separate living and sleeping areas, and complimentary Wi-Fi. It also features a fitness center, indoor pool, and free hot breakfast. Located near the Newport Aquarium and various dining options, the hotel provides convenient access to attractions and businesses in the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky area, catering to both extended-stay and leisure travelers. <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2025/02/28/homewood-suites-opens-ovation-newport>

Hyatt Regency in downtown Lexington set to begin \$58.5 million renovation – The Hyatt Regency, located just steps away from Rupp Arena in downtown Lexington, announced that it will begin a \$58.5 million renovation in late 2025. The project, which has received preliminary approval for state tourism tax incentives, will update rooms and amenities across the property. Renovations on the 50-year-old hotel are expected to be complete by 2027. <https://www.kentucky.com/news/business/article306933061.html>

Hotel Bourré Bonne opens in downtown Louisville - The new Hilton property, Hotel Bourré Bonne opened just in time for the Kentucky Derby. The hotel is part of Hilton's Curio Collection and is located in the heart of downtown, a block from the KFC Yum Center. The \$60 million hotel offers 168 rooms across five stories, as well as an outdoor pool, rooftop ballroom and restaurant. <https://www.whas11.com/article/news/local/new-hotel-opens-downtown-louisville-during-kentucky-derby-week/417-17332f9a-0029-4f7e-a5fc-77a01da3f5b5>

Seelbach hotel Celebrates 100th anniversary of 'The Great Gatsby' - 2025 marks a century since novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald published his most famous book, 'The Great Gatsby'. Fitzgerald was known to frequent the Seelbach Hotel, now Seelbach Hilton, in downtown Louisville. Additionally, he made it a backdrop in his novel. To celebrate, the Seelbach has debuted a two-room Great Gatsby Suite, styled after two of the book's characters. The suite's lavish art deco decor befits the book's decadence, glamour and "new money versus old money" juxtaposition. <https://thepointsguy.com/hotel/seelbach-hilton-great-gatsby-suite/>

Boutique hotel The Delegate opens in downtown Frankfort – The Delegate, located on E. Broadway, features 48 rooms in a historic building. The boutique property also houses Cypress & Oak, a high-end steakhouse with a gourmet menu and extensive bourbon and wine selection. <https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/restaurants/article295544139.html>

The Ashbrook Hotel opens in downtown Frankfort - The Ashbrook Hotel on Washington Street, formerly the home of Col. E.H. Taylor is now open. The inn features 14 uniquely designed rooms, a fine dining restaurant focused on southern cuisine and a location right in the middle of bourbon country. <https://gardenandgun.com/feature/the-ashbrook-hotel-combines-pops-of-color-and-a-bourbon-pedigree-in-frankfort-kentucky/>

My Old Kentucky Home State Park to upgrade campground - My Old Kentucky Home State Park in Bardstown is undergoing a \$4 million renovation to enhance its campground facilities. Improvements include upgrading electrical and water lines, adding sewer connections, renovating bathhouses, expanding sites, and improving roadways. The park features an early 19th-century historic mansion, welcome center, gardens, playground, picnic shelter, tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, outdoor amphitheater, gift shop, and campgrounds. The project on schedule to be completed by August 2025. <https://www.lanereport.com/178646/2025/01/my-old-ky-home-state-park-campground-getting-4m-upgrade/>

Lake Barkley State Resort Park gearing up for massive renovation - Lake Barkley State Resort Park will undergo a \$17 million renovation, starting September 2, 2025, and temporarily closing the main lodge and pool. Upgrades include structural repairs, a new roof, pool enhancements, and a sun terrace. Cabins, cottages, and the Little River Lodge will remain open, along with other park facilities like the restaurant, beach, and golf course. https://thesouthern.com/life-entertainment/play/lake-barkley-state-resort-park-to-undergo-17m-in-renovations/article_2e60910a-8603-56aa-ba9b-6038b7e290b3.html

Corbin to expand conference center and build new hotel – Corbin City Council has allocated \$3.5 million to expand the city's current conference space, The Corbin Center, by an additional 15,500 square feet. The funding will also go toward building a dual branded hotel adjacent to the center. The combination Fairfield Inn and TownPlace Suites will feature 113 rooms and a covered walkway connecting the hotel to the Corbin Center. The hotel is set to open November 2025. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/corbin-city-council-allocates-3-163200745.html>

Cumberland Falls State Resort Park to undergo renovations - The Dupont Lodge and Riverview Restaurant at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park will undergo \$10 million in renovations to enhance visitor experiences. The lodge and restaurant will be temporarily closed starting November 2025 and

officials have not released a completion date. People can still reserve cabins and all other facilities will remain open while the renovations are happening. <https://www.wymt.com/2024/11/19/cumberland-falls-state-resort-park-undergo-renovations/>

Drury Hotels opens location in Northern Kentucky Region - Drury Hotels has opened a new property in Florence. This 186-room hotel features 1,200 square-feet of meeting space. Situated at 7915 U.S. Highway 42, near Interstates 71 and 75, the Drury Plaza Hotel Cincinnati Florence is just miles from the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, Turfway Park, the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum. <https://www.hotelmanagement.net/openings/drury-hotels-opens-new-hotel-greater-cincinnati>

Developers buy property for future site of 27-floor high-rise hotel in downtown Louisville - The 300-room hotel would feature a rooftop bar, first-floor restaurant and more. "One Forty West" would be located a short distance from the Kentucky International Convention Center, KFC Yum! Center and across the street from another Zygo co-developed site, the forthcoming Canopy by Hilton hotel. Construction is slated to begin in 2026 and completed by 2028. <https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2024/11/05/zygo-closes-deals-to-buy-land-for-27-story-tower.html> <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2024/07/03/louisville-based-zygo-proposes-high-rise-hotel-one-forty-west>

Crown Plaza Hotel Completes Big Renovation – The Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport, Kentucky's fourth largest hotel, completed a \$25 million expansion and refresh. The project, which took a year to complete, involved remodeling all 588 rooms in the eight-story Crowne Plaza, which sits on state-owned land leased from the adjacent Kentucky Exposition Center. The Schneider Co. also added a bar to the lobby, replaced the hotel restaurant called Blue Horse with a new concept and to remake all of the event spaces. <https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2024/10/29/check-out-the-renovated-crowne-plaza.html>

Music

LouGrass concert series returns to Louisville - LouGrass is Louisville's celebration of Kentucky's bluegrass music, blending it with Americana, blues, and jazz. Running seasonally from April through October, "LouGrass Sessions" offer free live performances every weekend at various local venues. This initiative honors Louisville's deep connection to bluegrass history, from hosting major festivals to nurturing legendary musicians. Visitors can experience authentic roots music, enjoying both established icons and a new generation of artists keeping the tradition alive across "Bourbon City." <https://www.gotolouisville.com/lougrass/>

Louisville Orchestra Performances to collaborate with Morgan Freeman and others - The Louisville Orchestra has unveiled its 2025-26 season, promising a blend of classical masterpieces, innovative collaborations, and new works. Performances will feature actor Morgan Freeman, Stewart Copeland best known as the drummer for 80's rock band, The Police, and musician Ben Folds, among others. The season begins in September and performances will take place at the Whitney Hall, Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Louisville. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/music/2025/03/03/louisville-orchestra-announces-2025-26-season-tickets-dates/78421712007/>

New Kentucky Music Trail launches - The Kentucky Music Trail offers an immersive journey through Kentucky's rich musical heritage. Visitors can track their progress using the KMT passport app, checking in at over 55 participating locations across three regions. As you visit different sites, you'll reach milestones and earn rewards, including concert tickets and VIP merch. Explore at your own pace, from local venues to famous landmarks, while celebrating Kentucky's musical influence in a fun, interactive way. <https://kymusictrail.com/my-passport/>

Bourbon & Beyond 2025 set for September – Dozens of legendary musicians are set to perform across five stages at Highland Festival Grounds at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville Sept. 11-14. This year's lineup includes Sturgill Simpson, Phish, Alabama Shakes, Jack White and dozens more. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/2024/08/27/bourbon-and-beyond-2024-performance-set-times-locations/74954165007/>

Slayer to headline Louder Than Life 2025 in Louisville - Slayer will headline the 2025 Louder Than Life festival in Louisville. In addition to Slayer, world famous metal acts like Rob Zombie, Breaking Benjamin, Deft Tones and dozens more will all take the stage. The 2025 festival will take place on September 18-21, 2025, at the Highland Festival Grounds. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/music/2025/02/26/louder-than-life-2025-lineup-who-is-performing-how-to-get-tickets/80001456007/>

Healing Appalachia 2025 music fest comes to Ashland in September - Healing Appalachia, the world's largest recovery-based music festival, is moving to Ashland, Kentucky, in 2025. Founded by Tyler Childers, the festival has raised over \$5 million for Appalachian communities impacted by the opioid crisis. After five years in West Virginia, the festival will be held near the Boyd County Fairgrounds, September 19-20. This year's lineup includes Tyler Childers, Chris Stapleton, with more acts still to be announced. <https://www.wsaz.com/2025/04/21/healing-appalachia-2025-headliners/>

The 22nd annual ROMP Festival will take place June 25-28 – ROMP Festival returns to Yellow Creek Park in Owensboro, Kentucky this summer. The musicians gracing the stage at this annual bluegrass music festival include Wynona Judd, Del McCoury, Molly Tuttle and dozens more. Surrounded by stunning scenery, the festival offers an unforgettable weekend filled with world-class performances, beautiful surroundings, and family-friendly atmosphere. <https://bluegrasstoday.com/events-directory/romp-festival-2025/>

Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Mount Vernon Tourism to host annual Kentucky Blues Music Festival – The third annual Kentucky Blues Music Festival will be Saturday, June 7 at 5 p.m., and will celebrate Kentucky's rich blues heritage, bringing people together to enjoy this iconic genre in the heart of Mount Vernon. <https://www.kentuckyliving.com/event/kentucky-blues-music-festival-2>

America's River Roots festival to celebrate the Nations's 250th Anniversary– Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati are planning a massive festival to kickstart celebrations for the Nation's 250th Anniversary, October 9-12, 2025, as well as the culture and heritage of the regions on both sides of the Ohio River. The festival will feature performers on multiple stages along both sides of the river, tall stacks riverboat cruises, and educational programs, celebrity chef presentations, bourbon and craft beer tastings, multicultural food vendors, and regional food artisans. <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2024/05/03/america-s-river-roots-festival>

Outdoors

Jenny Wiley State Park to undergo \$5.5 million renovation - Jenny Wiley State Resort Park's lodge will undergo renovations starting September 1, 2025, with a \$5.5 million state investment for improvements to dining and meeting rooms, reopening summer 2026. Additionally, a new \$1.45 million archery center will break ground in fall 2025. While the lodge, cottages, and campground are temporarily closed, the park will continue to offer outdoor activities like hiking, biking, and fishing. <https://nkytribune.com/2025/06/jenny-wiley-state-resort-parks-lodge-to-undergo-renovations-add-archery-center/>

Contactless kayak rentals aim to make outdoor adventure more accessible - Georgetown, Kentucky, has launched new contactless kayak rentals at Cardome Park on Elkhorn Creek, set to expand by summer 2025. This innovative system allows users to rent kayaks, paddles, and life jackets via a smartphone app and QR code, offering easy, affordable, and self-service access to the waterway. Operated by Rent Fun, this initiative aims to make outdoor adventure more accessible and convenient for both locals and tourists. <https://lifestyle.xtra1063.com/story/52742774/new-contactless-kayak-rentals-coming-to-elkhorn-creek-by-summer-2025>

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife expands public hunting lands in southeast counties — Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is opening 60,233 acres of new public hunting grounds in eastern Kentucky. The land, mostly reclaimed mine land and forest, is part of the Pocahontas Wildlife Management Area. It offers opportunities for deer, turkey, and bear hunting. The land was acquired as part of a deal with a private landowner: the landowner gets elk hunting permits in exchange for public access. Hunters must have a permit to hunt elk and should use maps to navigate the area. <https://www.weku.org/the-commonwealth/2024-10-12/kentucky-fish-and-wildlife-expands-public-hunting-lands-in-southeast-counties>

New Wildlife Management Area opens near Clay and Jackson counties - Kentucky Fish and Wildlife has opened a new Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Clay and Jackson counties. The Little Sexton Creek WMA, funded by the Kentucky Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program, will focus on stream restoration to benefit aquatic habitats and water quality. The 1,100-acre area will offer public access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. <https://www.wkvt.com/2024/12/09/kentucky-fish-wildlife-opens-new-wildlife-management-area/>

Big Bone Lick State Park named National Historic Landmark - Big Bone Lick State Historic Site in Union, Kentucky, has been designated a National Historic Landmark. This prestigious recognition highlights its crucial role in the birth of vertebrate paleontology in North America. Fossils discovered at Big Bone Lick influenced prominent scientists like Thomas Jefferson and contributed significantly to the development of paleontology as a science. The state-owned site, located on Beaver Road, is considered the "first major New World fossil locality." https://www.kentuckytoday.com/news/big-bone-lick-becomes-a-national-historic-landmark/article_ec80c93c-bd42-11ef-b310-97aa1db4535a.html

Leitchfield named newest Certified Trail Town - Leitchfield, Kentucky, has been officially certified as the 30th Kentucky Trail Town. This certification recognizes the city's commitment to outdoor recreation and tourism. The Kentucky Trail Town Program aims to help communities capitalize on their recreational opportunities and attract visitors. Leitchfield's certification highlights its beautiful natural surroundings and its dedication to preserving and promoting them. https://www.messenger-inquirer.com/grayson_county/news/leitchfield-certified-as-kentuckys-30th-trail-town/article_a65cbc13-3955-515b-be41-9cbb7060fd7b.html

Yew Dell Botanical Gardens begins construction on Castle Gardens project - Yew Dell Botanical Gardens in Crestwood, Kentucky, has begun construction on its \$5 million Castle Gardens project. This transformation will create accessible gardens, water features, and educational opportunities around the historic Yew Dell castle. The project is expected to be completed in 2025. Yew Dell, a nationally registered historic site and garden center, welcomed approximately 30,000 visitors last year. <https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2024/04/19/yew-dell-gardens-new-project.html>

Other

Kentucky Tourism unveils brand new tourism campaign 'Find What Moves You' - Kentucky has launched "Find What Moves You," a new tourism campaign showcasing the state's diverse experiences and welcoming environment. Emphasizing inclusivity, the campaign, anchored by exploration, authenticity, connection, and inspiration, utilizes dynamic digital and social media content. It aims to attract visitors by promoting new experiences and aligns with the "New Kentucky Home" initiative, fostering economic investment, talent attraction, and increased tourism by highlighting Kentucky as a place for personal and professional growth. <https://www.lanereport.com/180405/2025/04/exploring-kentucky-find-what-moves-you/>

Kentucky Golf Trail looks to better combine golf and tourism - The Kentucky Golf Trail, combining golf with bourbon and horses, recently launched in May 2025. The trail offers access to meticulously maintained courses between Lexington and Louisville. Visitors can also experience bourbon distillery tours, thoroughbred farm visits, and horse racing at Keeneland and Churchill Downs, along with diverse culinary and cultural attractions in both cities. <https://www.golfdaily.com/kentucky-golf-trail-launches-at-iaqtos-north-american-golf-tourism-convention/>

Kentucky's PGA tour event moves from Nicholasville to Louisville - Kentucky's PGA Tour stop, the ISCO Championship (July 10-13), is moving to Hurstbourne Country Club in Louisville, a significant change after years in Nicholasville. Tournament officials emphasize keeping the event in Kentucky, with a vision to rotate venues statewide. This \$4 million purse event, now sponsored by Louisville-based ISCO Industries, will benefit the Wendy Novak Diabetes Institute.
<https://www.kentucky.com/sports/golf/article304216721.html>

Frontier Airlines launches non-stop flights from Northern Kentucky to Texas and Dominican Republic - Frontier Airlines now offers direct flights from Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International (CVG) to Austin, Texas (AUS) and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Flights to Austin are scheduled for twice a week and flights to the Dominican Republic will be once a week.
<https://www.wlwt.com/article/frontier-airlines-flight-cvg-airport-austin-texas/64088620>
<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2025/02/03/frontier-airlines-route-cincinnati-cvg-punta-cana-dominican-republic/78183779007/>

Western Kentucky cities announce formation of Kentucky Americana Triangle - Western Kentucky cities, Owensboro, Bowling Green, Henderson, Paducah, and Edmonson County, are partnering for the 2026 American semiquincentennial. The "Kentucky Americana Triangle" initiative, "Quilts, Cars, and Guitars," aims to attract tourists with cultural experiences. Each city highlights unique attractions: Owensboro's bluegrass and barbecue, Bowling Green's Corvette Museum, Paducah's quilting, Henderson's outdoor activities, and Edmonson County's Mammoth Cave. They seek to showcase Western Kentucky's distinct offerings, emphasizing "real America and true Kentucky hospitality."
<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/area-cities-form-kentucky-americana-045900741.html>

Louisville airport has record year in 2024 – 2024 was a record-breaking year for Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport (SDF) with passenger traffic surpassing previous highs. Growth is driven by increased flight options, larger aircraft, and strong travel demand. Officials anticipate continued expansion as SDF sees rising tourism and business travel. Travelers are encouraged to plan ahead as the airport experiences its busiest period yet. <https://www.whas11.com/article/travel/louisville-airport-sdf-passenger-traffic-record-2024/417-71e2ab37-d3c5-4293-b197-5bec61f5599e>

The Morehead Conference Center and Rowan County Arts Center completes renovations - The Morehead Conference Center and Arts Center have been renovated, with the latter hosting an art sale. A potential Blue Water Trail, recognized by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, is expected soon, potentially featuring the donated Walmart wetlands. Additionally, Morehead will be advertised on United Airlines flights landing in nearby cities, showcasing local attractions like Cave Run Lake.
<https://www.wmky.org/news/2024-12-20/rowan-county-officials-provide-updates-on-several-tourism-initiatives>

Lexington celebrates 250th anniversary throughout 2025 – 2025 marks 250 years since Lexington was founded. To celebrate, the city's anniversary commission will hold events throughout the year dedicated to different aspects of life in Lexington such as health, history, sports, and the future.
<https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/mayor-gorton-announces-plans-for-lexingtons-250th-anniversary-celebration>

Construction of film industry sound stages set to begin in Louisville – Louisville is set to begin a \$10 million renovation that will turn the historic Louisville Gardens into a movie soundstage. Once completed, the facility will feature 40,000-square-feet of production space and offices respectively and will be able to accommodate production of both television and feature film projects. Construction is set to begin in late 2025. <https://loutoday.6amcity.com/city/louisville-gardens-sound-stages-construction>
<https://www.lanereport.com/179388/2025/02/city-directing-10m-to-louisville-gardens-sound-stage-project/>

Cigar shop and speakeasy opens in Louisville - Louisville Cigar Company, a new speakeasy owned by Joshua Pickett, has opened in the Highlands. Located in a restored 1886 building, the lounge offers a curated selection of 70 bourbons, a walk-in humidor with premium cigars, and a cocktail menu. The space includes a speakeasy bar, bourbon lounges, and a patio. Pickett aims to create a welcoming environment for both cigar aficionados and novices, emphasizing education and pairing experiences.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2024/11/27/louisville-cigar-company-opens-speakeasy-in-original-highlands/76402278007/>

Lawrenceburg to host 2025 national triathlon event — Lawrenceburg, Kentucky will host the 2025 USA Triathlon Long Course National Championships on September 25, 2025. This prestigious event will bring hundreds of athletes and spectators to the town, boosting its economy and national recognition. The event will include various triathlon and duathlon races.

https://www.pmg-ky1.com/the_anderson_news/lawrenceburg-to-host-2025-national-triathlon-event/article_22d73835-be49-5202-b96a-48bbe46f26c5.html

Downtown Louisville introduces digital kiosks - Downtown Louisville has installed 20 new digital kiosks to help visitors and locals. These interactive screens provide information on attractions, events, dining, and transportation. The kiosks aim to improve wayfinding and promote downtown businesses, enhancing the overall experience for those exploring the city.

<https://www.whas11.com/article/news/local/digital-kiosks-downtown-louisville-locations/417-548c5939-7018-4f69-b9e2-e96095dd2300>

Kentucky launches 'New Kentucky Home' initiative — Kentucky's "New Kentucky Home" initiative aims to boost tourism and business growth. Highlighting the state's beauty, strong economy, and friendly communities, it uses a new website (NewKentuckyHome.ky.gov) and social media (#NewKyHome) to showcase Kentucky to potential residents, tourists, and businesses.

<https://www.lanereport.com/177663/2024/11/new-kentucky-home-initiative-to-attract-business-tourism-and-future-residents-to-kentucky/>

Lexington Airport restarts direct flights to New York City — Blue Grass Airport and Delta Air Lines have resumed non-stop flights from Lexington to LaGuardia Airport in New York City. This is the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic that Blue Grass Airport has been able to offer this route year-round. Flights to and from New York are available six days a week from Sunday through Friday.

<https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/article306070271.html>

Air Canada begins daily flights between Northern Kentucky and Montreal — Air Canada now offers daily nonstop flight between Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) and Montreal. CVG officials note that this addition will give customers more connecting options between Kentucky and European destinations. In addition to Montreal, Air Canada also has twice daily service between Toronto and CVG.

<https://www.wlwt.com/article/air-canada-new-flight-montreal-cvg-airport-route/64893022>

Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport undergoing \$1 billion expansion - Since 2019 the Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport has undergone a massive \$1 billion expansion project. To date work crews have added 30,000 square feet to the Jerry E. Abramson Terminal which increased TSA screening capacity by 60%. The project, the largest terminal expansion in 35 years, is funded by federal grants and airport authority funds. Construction is expected to be completed by late 2026.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2025/02/06/muhammad-ali-international-airport-upgrades>

Covington, Lexington, and Louisville receive highest rating for LGBTQ rights — Covington, Lexington, and Louisville all received top marks from the Human Rights Commission. This is the fifth year Lexington has been in the top 2.5% in the nation for protecting and supporting the LGBTQ community. The HRC's index examines each city's inclusivity on a range of issues including non-discrimination laws, municipal services and law enforcement.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2024/11/26/city-of-covington-mei-perfect-score> <https://www.kentucky.com/news/politics-government/article295935624.html>

Kentucky Exposition Center breaks ground on expansion project — Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville is undergoing a \$393 million expansion. The two-phase project will add new buildings, redevelop existing structures, and increase convention center space. The goal is to attract more conventions, trade shows, and events, boosting Louisville's economy and reputation as a premier destination. Construction on the first phase begins in 2025. <https://conventionsouth.com/kentucky-exposition-center-breaks-ground-on-much-anticipated-expansion-project/>

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