

Weather Record							
Date	3-16	3-17	3-18	3-19	3-20	3-21	3-22
High	72.4	59.4	65.1	51.8	62.3	65.8	67.8
Low	47.9	42.2	42.8	37.7	31.2	29.7	38
Prec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reporting period for each day runs from midnight to midnight. Statistics from Kentucky Mesonet's Bengal Station.							

The Courier-Journal: A special delivery

Landis is faithful in delivery of news

DALE CURRY
STAFF WRITER

For 36 years Bobby Landis has been making his way around Greensburg in the early morning hours delivering the Courier-Journal to local customers.

Many changes have taken place in the newspaper industry during those years, including where the paper is now printed. The Courier-Journal recently closed their printing press and the paper is now printed in Indianapolis.

Landis started delivering the Louisville-based newspaper when his daughter, Machelie, took the job but needed some help for a couple of weeks to decide if she wanted to keep the job.

“I told her I would help for two weeks but no more than two weeks,” Landis said, “and here we are 36 years later.”

Some of the changes in the newspaper are noticeable to readers while other changes are more subtle.

“The paper has gotten smaller (fewer pages) through the years,” Landis said.

Most large daily newspapers have struggled with the changes in technology which allows people to get their news via internet and social media in a much quicker timeframe.

Landis, who used to do his own billing for his customers, no longer handles that part of the operation either.

When Landis began delivering the newspapers, customer paid \$6.50 per month for seven-day delivery. Now the cost is about six or seven times that amount.

The number of subscribers has also changed through the years.

“When I started, I had 360 subscribers each month,” Landis said. “I only have about 175 now and most of those are older folks. Many of the younger

people read on-line now.”

Many of the subscribers are dedicated readers of the newspaper and are grateful to Landis for being so faithful in delivering the papers.

“He’s the best paperman we’ve ever had,” Jerry Cowherd said. “We have a secret signal when I’m out of town and Bobby knows to save my papers. Then when I’m back in town, he will deliver all my papers to me.”

Cowherd, who has been a subscriber for 48 years, knows what is required in delivering a daily newspaper.

“I used to deliver the Courier Journal in 1966 and 1967,” Cowherd said. “I had 68 customers who took the daily paper and 120 customers who received the Sunday edition. I could do that with my dad’s help.”

Cowherd said he learned a valuable lesson while delivering papers. “I used to have a money bag that I would keep change in so that when I was collecting I would make change for customers. But one day I had a woman give me a \$20 bill and back then that was a lot of money. She took almost all my change and instead of putting the \$20 in my money bag I just stuck it in my pocket.”

Later that day when Cowherd was home and counting his money, he realized that he had lost that \$20 bill and as a result, lost his profit for the month.

“I learned right then,” he said, “that I need to put things where they belong.”

Landis also learned some lessons along the way.

“Late one Fall, I was delivering newspapers and I threw a paper up on a woman’s porch. She had all kinds of flowers and pots out on her porch and when I threw the paper, it broke several of the flowers. After I finished delivering the papers, I went back to her



Photo by Dale Curry

Long-time Courier-Journal delivery man Bobby Landis hands Jerry Cowherd a copy of the newspaper. Despite Landis being a huge UK fan and Cowherd being perhaps the biggest UL fan in town, the two enjoy sharing stories related to the newspaper.

house to apologize and to make things right with her. I asked her if \$20 would be enough to cover the cost of her plants. She said she would be happy with that so I gave her \$20 and apologized again. She said, ‘That’s ok, I was getting ready to pull them up anyway.’”

Landis is grateful that in all those 36 years of delivering papers, he’s only missed one day of getting the papers to his customers and that was because the truck couldn’t make the trip from Louisville as a result of bad weather.

“Not telling how many cars I’ve gone through in those 36 years,” Landis said. “My trip right now is 58 miles every day, seven days a week.”

Landis said he usually tries to buy a cheap older car that will allow him to drive for two or three years and then he junks it and buys another cheap car.

Landis has been working for a long time but is not considering quitting any time soon.

“I will probably keep delivering until either the Courier-Journal goes out of business or they make me get off the road.”

Until then, Landis will continue making deliveries in Greensburg.



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Amnesty program is scheduled

The Green County Fiscal Court will be hosting the White Goods Amnesty Program April 15-17 this year. The event will be held on Columbia Highway as

in previous years.

Items accepted: appliances, furniture, batteries and various types of scrap metal. Items not accepted are paint, oil, tires, propane tanks,

garbage, asphalt shingles, tree limbs, yard waste, lumber or any hazardous materials.

For questions, call the judge-executive’s office at 270-932-4024.

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