



**RUSSELL COUNTY BASS TEAM HAS GREAT SUCCESS**

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# The Times Journal

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In an old photo from The Russell County News, Erbie Rush is shown with a siren which provided the "noon whistle" in Jamestown. The midday tradition has returned to the city with the same siren pictured.

*In Jamestown*  
**History Fills the Air with Return of the "Noon Whistle"**  
 WHISTLE,  
 Story on page 7

## SOFTBALL, Y'ALL



Even after suffering a stinging shot to her leg from a line drive, Russell County Lady Laker Softball Pitcher Tarryn Reynolds led her team to an opening day victory last week at the Kay Morris Softball Complex. A story and more photos from the game are inside this issue.

Donna Diaz  
**A Life of Service**

*"I have always felt like, and still do, that anybody who focuses and works hard can do anything they want to do...your work ethic, your focus, your ability to go the extra mile, if you will, is really what equates to success."*  
 Donna Diaz



Donna Diaz in the living room of the historic home she has lived in nearly her entire life. Behind her is a portrait of her grandparents, John and Mary Beck. Mary Beck "was already a widow when she moved to this house," Donna said.

By Wade Daffron  
 TJ Editor

When discussing people who have truly made a difference in not only Russell County, but the entire Lake Cumberland area, there's one name to which heads nod in agreement.

Donna Diaz.  
 If ever a community had a champion, it's her.

During her nearly 40 years with the Lake Cumberland Area Development District (LCADD), she helped propel the ten-county area toward progress and prosperity.

The countless

contributions she's made toward the betterment of others has south-central Kentucky singing her praises.

With March as Women's History Month, there's no better person to recognize and celebrate.

These days, a "retired" Donna Diaz sits serenely at her home (The one she grew up in) at the top of the hill next to Jamestown Elementary.

From her kitchen table, she recalled a life of challenges and "big moments."

Her husband, Dr. Ronilo, smiled at acknowledgements,

and tilted his head curiously if a time or date was in dispute.

There's a story here for sure.

But not just any story - it's a story about someone driven, determined, and dedicated to doing anything they can to help others.

Few people's lives are rooted in Russell County as much as Donna Diaz's.

There's a corner of her hometown named "Beck Park."

DIAZ,  
 Continued on page 2

## Campbell Commits to Fish for Kentucky Christian

By Lisa Coffey  
 Times Journal  
 Russell County High School (RCHS) Senior Branson Campbell has committed to Kentucky Christian University's Fishing Team.

This is the sixth season for the high school fishing team, and their second signing.

Campbell made his commitment at a signing ceremony last Wednesday at the Russell County High School.

"Fishing is vital to our community," RCHS Bass Fishing Coach Shannon Stephens said. "We are fortunate to get good young Christians like Branson Campbell."



Branson Campbell, son of Jason and Kristy Campbell signs his commitment letter alongside KCU Coach Gene Nornhold and RCHS Laker Fishing Coach, Shannon Stephens

"He is a leader, not a follower" Kentucky Christian University (KCU) Bass Fishing Coach Gene

Nornhold said.

Nornhold has been coaching at KCU since March of 2020.

In 2017, Coach Nornhold coached the Morehead State University fishing team that went on to win the State Championship.

Kentucky Christian University is a private, non-profit Christian university located in the beautiful foothills of Eastern Kentucky. For over a century, KCU has been transforming the hearts and minds of students through a Christ-Centered academic community that is both academically rigorous and intimately personal.

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