



Let's go eat

As a type 1 diabetic, eating at restaurants is quite the enjoyable struggle, but it's one I find myself doing often with active kiddos and the busy life we live.



Crystal Cecil
Record-Herald Staff

My family and I find ourselves eating the same things and the same places pretty often. A lot of that has to do with me and how the food affects my blood sugar. But occasionally, we will try something new... especially if there is a home cooking vibe!

Friday night, we planned a trip to The Country Store in Bradfordsville (which is in Marion County). After a bunch of curvy backroads and wondering if we'd ever arrive, lo and behold, there was a quaint little restaurant in the middle of nowhere. My husband described Bradfordsville as "it's kinda like Summersville, or Pierce."

He was right. My niece, Ally, works at the small country restaurant, which is only open on Friday and Saturday evenings for a few hours each. I had been wanting to try it since

she started. "Catfish night," sealed the deal. My mother- and father-in-law joined us, as well as my son's girlfriend.

Oh my goodness- it was delicious! My husband and I ordered the catfish dinner. My sides were steamed cabbage, cole slaw and hushpuppies, while he opted for the seasoned potatoes (they were great-I stole one!). My daughter ordered the chicken nachos appetizer as her meal, and my son ordered the catfish sandwich with fries. His girlfriend ordered chicken tenders. Everyone was complimentary with the promising question of "What will I get next time!?"

The best part- the dessert! I opted to share the special- hot fudge cake- with my daughter... meaning she ate 90% of it. Delicious! A table near us got a banana split that looked like it came



from a magazine page. That's on my "next time" list.

The place was small, clean, and had plenty of friendly and personable staff. Prices were good. The food was fantastic. Bonus that we had an awesome waitress with the last name of Cecil.

Extra bonus- they had several low carb sides for the type 1 diabetic (the hot fudge cake was worth the insulin though- trust

me!).

I already knew I'd love the place. I work near WigWam General Store in Hart County and I would swear they have the best cheeseburger and seasoned fries anywhere around. It also doesn't hurt that they know my voice when I call and always ask, "You need an unsweet tea today?" and how they always know to put extra salt on my fries and cheese on my

Promises Kept: Lowering the income tax means rewarding work, attracting investment, increasing competitiveness



State Representative Ryan Bivens

On January 1, Kentucky took another meaningful step toward a more competitive, more prosperous future and every single working Kentuckian can see the results in their next paycheck. Our individual income tax rate officially dropped to 3.5%, continuing the legislature's long-term commitment to phasing out the tax entirely. This is not just a number on paper, it is a statement of principle. It reflects our belief that Kentuckians, not Frankfort, should decide how to spend the money they earn.

Our goal is simple: eliminate the individual income tax entirely. Not overnight, not recklessly, but responsibly through measured reductions tied to clear fiscal benchmarks. This approach ensures that we protect essential ser-

vices while still moving Kentucky toward a tax structure that rewards work, attracts investment, and makes our state competitive with our neighbors.

This year's reduction builds on the work we began several sessions ago, including HB 1 in 2022. That measure set the framework for responsible, data-driven rate cuts tied to revenue triggers and economic performance. Economists estimate that the most recent reduction will leave approximately \$718 million in the pockets of Kentucky taxpayers in the first full fiscal year of implementation. That is \$718 million that families can use to pay bills, invest in their futures, or support local businesses, rather than sending it to the state to be redistributed.

The Wall Street Journal recently highlighted the national trend of states lowering income taxes, noting that "marginal rate cuts on the next income dollar increase the incentive to work - and for people to remain in the state."

That principle is at the heart of our approach. When we reduce the penalty on work, we reward productivity. When we allow Kentuckians to keep more of their paychecks, we strengthen our workforce and our economy.

The Journal also pointed out that lower income-tax rates serve as "a discipline on politicians who want to spend whatever revenue they can grab." I could not agree more. A government that grows simply because it can is not serving its people. If a government grows, it should be to meet the needs of thriving citizens and a growing economy. Lower tax rates ensure that the government does not grow at the expense of working families.

We have already seen the benefits. Businesses are taking notice. Families are choosing to stay. Entrepreneurs are choosing to build here rather than elsewhere. Every step we take toward eliminating the income tax sends a message that Kentucky is open for growth, open

for innovation, and open for opportunity.

Meaningful work - real reform that reshapes a state's economic future - never happens by accident. It takes persistence, discipline, and, at times, the willingness of the legislature to stand firm when the governor tries to slam on the brakes. The Wall Street Journal noted that in Pennsylvania, "the rate cut was pushed by Republicans in Harrisburg, not by Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro—though perhaps he'll take credit for it if he runs for President." That observation hit close to home. Here in Kentucky, we saw the same dynamic play out when lawmakers had to override the governor's veto to pass HB 1 in 2022. And yet, despite his attempt to block it, he now seems more than willing to bask in the glow of its success. It is a reminder that progress often requires the legislature to lead boldly and to stay the course even when others try to claim the credit after the fact.

As we convene this

year's legislative session, I am optimistic about where we are headed. We are demonstrating that fiscal responsibility and improving our quality of life are not mutually exclusive - they are mutually reinforcing. By continuing to lower the income tax and finding ways to ensure state government works for the people and not the other way around, we are building a stronger foundation for future generations and ensuring that Kentucky remains a place where hard work is rewarded, not penalized.

The future is bright for our Commonwealth. And as long as I have the privilege of serving, I will continue working to ensure that Kentucky families keep more of what they earn and that our state remains on a path toward lasting prosperity.

However, our work is far from done and we will convene the 2026 Regular Session on January 6. Want to follow along?

What's Happening

All times are Central

This Week

SVFD Annual Meeting

The Summersville Volunteer Fire Department annual meeting and election of community board members will be held Saturday, January 10 at 10 a.m. at the Summersville Community Center. The annual awards banquet will also be held that day at 5 p.m. at the Community Center. A potluck meal will be served. Everyone is invited to attend. For additional information, phone Fire Chief Matt Goodin at 270-465-1497.

Happening Soon

Greenhouse Pest Control

There will be a Greenhouse Pest Control Program Tuesday, January 13 at 4:30 p.m. at the Taylor County Cooperative Extension Office, 1143 South Columbia Ave., Campbellsville. The guest speaker will be Kate Wray from Miller Chemical & Fertilizer. To RSVP, please call (270)465-4511.

GCIS SBDM Council

The Green County Intermediate School SBDM Council will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 15 at 4:30 p.m., in the school conference room.

Post 5813, VFW, Aux.

The regular monthly meeting of the James L. Pruitt Post 5813, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Auxiliary will be held Jan. 15 starting with a meal at 6:30 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend and anyone interested in joining either organization is invited to attend.

GCMS SBDM Council

The Green County Middle School SBDM council will hold its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, January 21 at 3 p.m. in the school conference room.

bacon biscuit.

It's the little things that make small businesses special in areas like ours and I am extremely grateful for restaurants that keep my little family fed well, because as much as a cook at home, sometimes I just want someone else to make the cheeseburger or the hot fudge cake.

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Kentucky Centennial Business

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