

Greensburg-Green County
A proud past — A promising future

Way Back When

1976 - The local population is in the national average with a debt of \$1,650 per family.

BY CAROL DIAL
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

March 22, 2006
Break-in nets drugs - Thieves broke into the Greensburg Discount Pharmacy and took several containers of hydrocodone.

Anniversary - Mann and Alberta Thornton celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary at a surprise party hosted by their children at Jacob Grove Baptist Church Sunday.

Unemployment rises - A survey shows that in the Green County labor force of 5,497, there are 387 unemployed seeking employment.

Bluegrass show - The first Greensburg Bluegrass Show featured local groups The Foster Children, Andrea Deaton-Smith, and Matt DeSpain and the Bluegrass All Stars.

March 20, 1996
Cars stolen - Vehicles belonging to Tom Durham and Mae Handy were stolen while the owners were attending church services.

Geography Bee winners - Winners in the Green County Geography Bee were eighth grader John Shuffett, overall. Jeremy Hall was the seventh grade winner and Josh Gupton took the sixth grade win.

Portland, Christola Coffey - A Longaberger basket party was held at the home of Cathy Martin.

Thompson recognized - A GCHS senior Kevin Thompson was the top mathematics award in the State Governor's Cup Academic Competition.

March 20, 1986
Republican Party Officers - Clellan Moore was named chairman of the Green County Republican Party. Joyce Ward was named co-chairman, Tracy Goff, youth chairman, Henry Hall, trea-

surer and Donna Jean McCubbin, secretary.

Birthday celebrations - E. E. Gupton, 84 years old on March 16. Edward Stinnet turned 86 years old on March 15.

Summershade, Hazel Kessler - Some of my neighbors went out about 4 AM to a hilltop and saw "Halley's Comet".

New store manager - Doug Foster, Springfield, Kentucky, was hired as manager of the Greensburg Louisville Store.

March 25, 1976
Widespread wind damage - Many areas of the county had damage to buildings and trees from high winds Saturday night.

Mears Store robbed - The Leonard Mears Store at Bloyd's Crossing was broken into Monday night. Cigarettes, cigars, candy, cookies, chewing gum and canned food are among the items taken.

Local debt is average - The local population is in the national average with a debt of \$1,650 per family.

Obituaries - Exie Jones Tucker, 72, March, 19; David M. Houk, 86, Feb. 24; Hazel Biggs Heath, 56, March 17.

March 24, 1966
Donansburg home burns - The Joe Taylor family lost their home and all of their belongings in a fire Friday.

Little Barren, Mrs. Robert Clark - There are signs of spring everywhere. Birds are singing, flowers are in bloom and the frogs are calling.

Shaw entertains chiropractors - Dr. Phillip Shaw, Greensburg chiropractor, furnished organ music to a gathering of 1,000 chiropractors at a meeting in Marion, Indiana.

New library open - The Greensburg Public Library opened in its new location Monday.



A group posed in front of Peoples Garage in the 1920s.

The Peoples Garage



Green County Public Library Genealogy
Laura Johnson

Robert Lee Hartfield purchased in January 1909 half of lot #20 on North Main Street in Greensburg. He operated a grocery store there as well as a freight hauling business purchased from Joe Calhoon the previous fall.

Born in the Haskinsville community in 1864, Hartfield was the son of Isaac and Susan Hartfield, both German immigrants who had made their home in Green County.

By 1910, Hartfield was in his 40s and living upstairs over his store with his wife and son, Carl.

In April 1915, Hartfield began laying a concrete foundation for construction of a two-story building located between the store and the Masonic Hall building to be used as a garage. The garage had a frontage of 36 feet and was 58 feet deep with living quarters upstairs. Its most striking feature was its façade of rock-faced cement blocks specially made for the project, creating a strong, handsome exterior unlike anything Greensburg had seen before.

The business opened with the name Peoples Garage but was sometimes referred to as the Hartfield Garage.

Hartfield's son, Carl, worked in the garage as a mechanic. He got married in 1915 and his new bride moved in with the Hartfields above the store.

Disaster was narrowly avoided at the garage in April 1923 when a small fire was started by a leaky connection on the gasoline engine in use there. The flame was carried to a

gallon gas can nearby which ignited. The fire extinguisher on hand had already been used and was unknowingly empty. Quick action was taken to smother the fire, and the can was thrown into the street. Thankfully, no damage was reported.

Hartfield began trying to sell his North Main Street property in 1931. He was already in his late 60s, likely ready to retire from the demands of business life. An ad for public sale noted the garage sold Stoll products.

The garage did not sell but was leased out. In 1933, W. T. Bradshaw opened a garage in the building, followed in 1938 by Cecil Judd and Hubert Coak, who operated the Main Street Ga-

rage there.

The Hartfield property was destroyed in February 1944 by a fire that took out half a block of businesses. Originating in the Mossland Theatre on a Saturday afternoon, the fire quickly spread to the Masonic Hall, then to the garage and store owned by Hartfield.

Hartfield sold his portion of lot #20 in

February 1945 to Gabe B. Taylor, Colby F. Cowherd, Herman Hagan, and Paul Fisher Calhoon.

The Peoples Garage story represents Greensburg's early embrace of the automobile age. For nearly three decades, it served as a place where new technology met small town ingenuity and local mechanics kept the community moving.

Surprise! Surprise!



All family friends of **BRANDY THOMPSON** are invited to her 50th Birthday Party Saturday, March 28, 1-3p.m. Greensburg time, at Community Center behind the library in Greensburg

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Take Charge of Your Debt One Step at a Time



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If you're dealing with debt, you're far from alone. More than 80% of U.S. households carry some form of debt (2025 Federal Reserve report), and since 2019, total household debt for Americans has increased more than 31%, to \$18.59 trillion.

While debt can help you achieve important goals, such as buying a home or getting an education, it can also create strain on your life and finances. If you only make minimum payments, for example, you'll hold debt longer and pay more in interest.

Having a clear debt reduction plan can help you take control, reduce anxiety and even save money.

Know your debt. The first step is understanding what you owe. Make a comprehensive list of all your debts, including credit cards, mortgages, auto loans, student loans and medical bills. For each one, note the total amount owed, the interest rate and your minimum payment requirements.

Next, add it all up to see your total debt load. Then calculate your debt-to-income ratio by dividing your total monthly debt payments by your gross monthly income. A good rule of thumb is to keep this ratio below 35% if you have a mortgage or 20% if you don't.

Manage what you owe. Now that you have the big picture, look for opportunities to reorganize your debt more effectively. Perhaps you can refinance existing loans at lower interest rates, consolidate multiple debts into a single payment or transfer high-interest credit card balances to cards that offer lower or 0% introductory rates for up to 12 months.

These strategies won't reduce the total amount you owe, but they can make your debt more manageable and potentially save you money on interest. Just watch out for fees and make sure you understand new terms before making changes.

Set your payment target. Start by identifying your required minimum payments across all debts. Missing these can trigger fees and penalties and damage your credit score, so treat them as non-negotiable expenses in your budget.

Next, look at your budget to identify any funds available after covering all essential expenses. Consider how much of this surplus to put toward paying down debt versus saving for other goals. Remember that building an emergency fund and saving for retirement are also important priorities that shouldn't be sidelined.

If you have no surplus, you may need to cut back on things like eating out, clothes shopping, on-line subscriptions, entertainment or expensive vacations while you bring your debt in line. Consider an additional part-time job for extra income to pay off your debt sooner.

Prioritize your debt. Finally, decide which debts to tackle first with any extra payments. One approach is to focus on paying off the debt with the highest interest rate first, which minimizes the total interest you'll pay over time. Alternately, you can target the smallest balance first to help you build momentum and motivation.

Taking control of your debt doesn't happen overnight, but with a clear strategy, you can make steady progress toward your financial goals.

NOTICE OF VACANT GREEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SEAT

The Green County Board of Education ("Board") is seeking applications for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board representing seat Division # 4. This appointment will be effective until the November 3, 2026 regular election.

Responsibilities include: setting policy to govern the District; hiring/evaluating the Superintendent; and levying taxes and adopting the District budget. Board members must:

- Be at least 24 years old and a Kentucky citizen for the last three years;
- Be a registered voter in the particular District of the vacancy;
- Have completed the 12th grade or have a GED certificate;
- Meet all other legal qualifications (KRS 160.180); and
- Complete required annual in-service training.

Applications are available at 402 E. Hodgenville Ave., Greensburg, KY 42743 or online at <https://sites.google.com/green.kyschools.us/greencountyschools/departments/board-of-education?authuser=0>.

Mail applications to:

Superintendent, ATTN: Board Vacancy,
402 E. Hodgenville Ave., Greensburg, KY 42743.
Applications will be accepted through April 2, 2026.

Edward Jones

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