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Louisville, Kentucky

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# 'Dangerous and unsafe'

## First two wrongful death lawsuits filed in UPS crash

**Stephanie Kuzydym**  
Louisville Courier Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

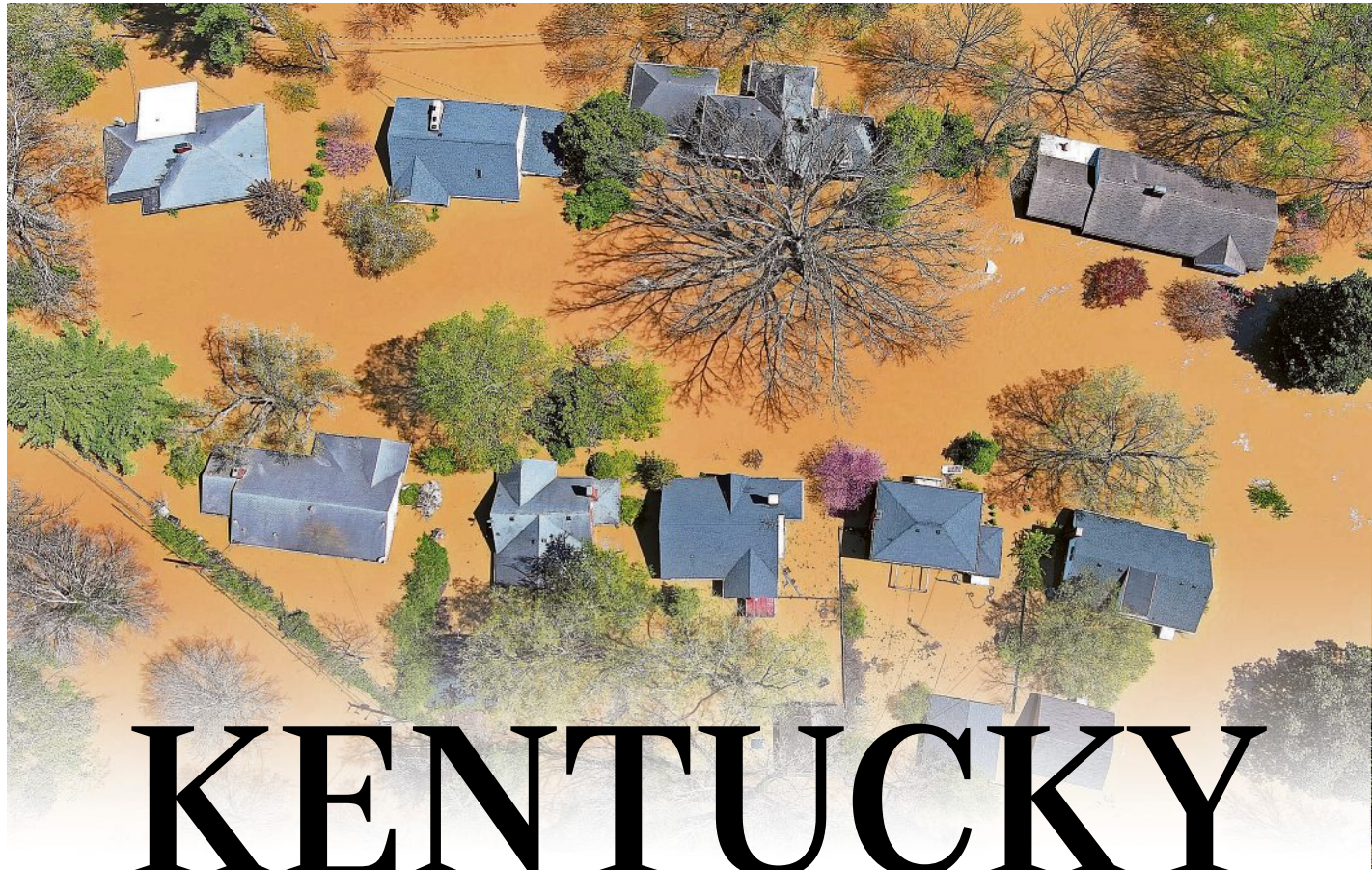
The two women, each wearing black, sat between the lawyers, staring at their hands as a tissue box slid down the table. Lexi Faith and Gabby Hermosillo-Nunez had no reason to be in this law office's conference room exactly one

month ago. Then a plane fell from the sky and exploded near a business both their loved ones were inside. The moment eternally bound them. Now, the first two wrongful death lawsuits related to the Nov. 4 UPS plane crash were filed Dec. 3 in Jefferson Circuit Court, for Lexi's mother, Angela Anderson, and Gabby's sister, Trina Chavez. The lawsuits, which closely mirror

## Inside

A UPS letter reveals the MD-11s could be grounded for 'several months.' **13A**  
each other, claim negligence by several major companies affiliated with UPS Flight 2976, which crashed shortly after takeoff from Muhammad Ali International Airport, killing 14. At around 5:14 p.m. on Nov. 4, accelerating down the runway, UPS Flight 2976 initiated takeoff. It reached an alti-

tude of about 30 feet above ground level, according to the flight data recorder, when the left engine and pylon separated from the wing. The plane, carrying more than 38,000 gallons of jet fuel, was scheduled for a journey to Honolulu when a fire ignited and the crash of the flight "acted like a bomb," per the lawsuits. Anderson, 45, a mother of three daughters and a son, was dropping off  
**See LAWSUITS, Page 13A**



# KENTUCKY DISASTERS

## 8 things state panel says could make a difference

**Stephanie Kuzydym** Louisville Courier Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

**K**entucky state Sen. Robin Webb held up a thick black binder stuffed full of white paper. • The binder, which she hefted in the air during a Nov. 21 meeting in Frankfort, contained the many recommendations the Disaster Prevention and Resiliency Task Force, co-chaired by Webb and Rep. Chris Freeland (R-Benton), received the last five months. • The general assembly created the task force during the 2025 session to study disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation after Kentucky suffered three major natural disasters in the first 45 days of the year. That followed several major recent natural disasters including the Mayfield tornadoes in 2021, which killed more than 80 people, and mass flooding in Eastern Kentucky since 2022.

After months of gatherings, it was the task force's final meeting, and Webb gave an overview of several of its recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly, which will begin session January 6. It is a budget year. Here are eight recommendations the task force will ask lawmakers to consider:

## Chief Resilience Officer

The task force's first recommendation is for the state to create a state-level position known as a Chief Resilience Officer. Little concrete details were

**See DISASTERS, Page 6A**

# Booker to enter race to replace McConnell

## Ex-rep's third attempt to win seat in U.S. Senate

**Lucas Aulbach**  
Louisville Courier Journal  
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A familiar name from Louisville is planning to take a third crack at representing the Bluegrass State in the U.S. Senate. Charles Booker, the former West End state representative who ran Senate campaigns in 2020 and 2022, announced Dec. 3 he plans to seek the Democratic nomination to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, whose final term will expire at the end of next year. "They thought we were done — we ain't quitting," Booker said in a campaign announcement, with a clip of a speech. "Let's lead for the change we want to see." While Booker served just two years as a state representative in Frankfort, he needs little introduction among Kentucky voters keeping an eye on the Senate race. He's run for a seat in the chamber two times — in 2020 he lost a contested Democratic primary against Amy McGrath, who's also seeking to replace McConnell, and in 2022 he cruised in the primary but was soundly defeated in the general election by current Republican U.S. Sen. Rand Paul. Booker ran to the left of McGrath in 2020 and has promoted progressive policies in the past. He worked in Gov. Andy Beshear's administration following his 2022 loss but left the office in earlier this year. He's appeared recently at events including Louisville's "No Kings" rally in October and last month hinted he was considering jumping in the race. Booker would be Kentucky's first Black U.S. senator if elected, a distinction that would also go to Republican primary candidate Daniel Cameron, the state's former attorney general.  
**Booker**



**See BOOKER, Page 4A**

**TOP: Neighborhoods around Frankfort are inundated with floodwaters from the Kentucky River on April 7. MICHAEL CLEVINGER/COURIER JOURNAL**

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