

Weather Record							
Date	3-12	3-13	3-14	3-15	3-16	3-17	3-18
High	53.5	69.9	75.4	58.8	51.1	56	49.5
Low	30.7	41.7	58.2	32.3	25.1	23.7	25.9
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.

# ATC instructors prepare students for world

**BY CLEVIS JEFFRIES**  
 STAFF WRITER

The Green County Area Technology Center staff is preparing skilled young adult workers and certifying them to become part of the area’s labor workforce. Statistically, since 2013 some 500 sophomores, juniors, and seniors have become certified in their fields of study and many are employed at various area businesses/industries or continuing their education in their specialized fields.

“I’m blessed to work with so many stakeholders that directly have an influence on our students. Our job as educators should be to build new systems and transform our school culture so that students are encouraged to complete career pathways that directly connect them to career and/or college opportunities,” said Principal Dr. Lee Ann Wall.

Recently, three former students took the time to sit down and talk about their educational experiences at the local area tech center and how the technical school played a vital role in their career choices.

Julie DeSpain, Wyatt Montgomery and Nathaniel Milby are graduates of Green County High School with careers in nursing, welding and computerized machining, respectively.

DeSpain is a registered nurse at TJ Samson Community Hospital in Glasgow; Montgomery, a production associate at Hendrickson in Lebanon, and Milby, a machinist at Komatsu Mining Corporation in Lebanon.

The local area tech center and its instructors were instrumental in igniting the interests of these for-

mer students in their areas of study and the pursuit of a career in technical education which afforded them good pay and benefits.

DeSpain said, “Because of Ms. Compton’s encouragement to complete the MNA (Nursing Assistant) course and to take the certification test, I was able to be prepared to make a career choice in nursing.”

Milby noted that becoming a machinist provided him the opportunity to make good money and have a bright future.

Montgomery mentioned his touring the local ATC as an eighth grader in the welding lab which sparked his interest in pursuing welding as a future career.

The Green County Area Technology Center has had a lasting impact on these three individuals.

Montgomery said, “Mr. Thomas and his welding classes taught me the necessary skills to be successful and he provided me with a job

opportunity in the workforce upon graduation.”

“It got me started working with machines in a shop environment,” said Milby.

DeSpain asserted that taking courses at the ATC allowed her to gain skills and have opportunities to have patient contact and real-life experiences in caring for others.

All three discussed certain job duties at their current place of employment.

Montgomery said his responsibilities included welding and manufacturing of designed parts for truck suspension systems. DeSpain spoke of her responsibilities which include assessment of patients, administering medications, IV therapy, monitoring patients, notifying physicians of patient changes, and receiving orders for patient care. Milby referred to his job duties as operating a lathe, drill press, and milling machine.

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Julie DeSpain, a 2012 GCHS graduate, is currently employed as an RN at TJ Samson Community Hospital in Glasgow.



Photos submitted  
Green County alumni Wyatt Montgomery works at Hendrickson in Lebanon. Montgomery graduated in May 2018.



Nathaniel Milby, a 2017 GCHS graduate, uses skills he obtained through the ATC on the job at Komatsu in Lebanon.

# Commissioner of Agriculture visits Longhunters

**BY SKYLER SMITH**  
 RR-H STAFF

Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles campaigned at a fundraising reception at Longhunters Coffee and Tea Company March 11 to generate support for his upcoming run at re-election.

The reception was hosted by Bill and Justine Landrum.

The commissioner was accompanied by special guest State Representative Brandon Reed.

“The current commissioner Ryan Quarles is a true asset to the commonwealth of Kentucky—we’ve had him for four years, it’s been a true blessing,” Reed said in his opening statement at the reception. “We want him for another four years.”

The commissioner is campaigning to continue the momentum.

“I’m running for re-election because the Kentucky agriculture community asked me

four years ago if the voters gave me the chance, [to] give them eight years of stability,” Commissioner Quarles said. “The journey is not over.”

Quarles spoke about the success that has been made with Kentucky Proud since he’s been in office.

“We’ve had a lot of accomplishments the last few years—we’ve grown Kentucky Proud,” he said. He explained that merchandise profits alone have surpassed over half a billion dollars.

“We got Kentucky Proud beef into Kroger, in a very real and significant way,” the commissioner said. “In fact, we’re just coming up on one year’s worth of sales and we’ve sold over 300,000 pounds of Kentucky grown, Kentucky fed, Kentucky processed ground beef at Kroger. That’s a big accomplishment,” he said.

Quarles said a lot of time has been spent

on industrial hemp.

“Kentucky chose to lead on this issue and because of that, we’re creating jobs,” he said of industrial hemp. “In fact, a week from today, we’re going to be releasing some economic data that shows hundreds of jobs exist today that simply did not exist a few years ago because Kentucky chose to lead on hemp and treat it as an agricultural commodity like it once was in our state.”

In terms of numbers, Quarles stated that Kentucky has over 1,000 farmers growing hemp this year, and 120 hemp companies.

“That’s a crop that has a lot of potential,” said Quarles.

Before closing, Quarles reiterated the importance of who holds the reigns as commissioner. “This race matters,” Quarles said. “You gotta have someone that has some Kentucky dirt on their boots.”



Photos by Walt Gorin



Steven Olt, left, is shown talking with Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles, center, and State Representative Brandon Reed, right, during the fundraising reception for Quarles March 11 at Longhunters. From left are County Judge-Executive John Frank, Green County Farm Bureau President Larry Clark, Olt, Quarles, Reed, Green County PVA Sean Curry and Greensburg Mayor John Shuffett.