



BLAKEY SIGNS LETTER OF INTENT WITH LWC BOWLING

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NATIONAL CHAMPS! Laker Dance Team earns two titles

By Lisa Coffey
Times Journal

Community support, well-wishes, lots of love, prayers, and plenty of talent helped the Laker Dance Team travel to Louisville for an important competition...and return home with two national championship titles.

The Laker Dance Team competed this past weekend at the Crown Dance National Championship in Louisville.

The team, consisting of two student athletes from Russell County Middle School (RCMS): Lilly Williams and Abby Fox, and Russell County High School (RCHS student) athletes: Olivia Thomas, Alexis Fox, Madison Caldwell, Brooklyn Walker, Mia Keen, Nikita Walker and graduating seniors, Morgan Taylor and Audrey Popplewell, is coached by Head Coach Amanda Turner and Assistant Coach Alissa Thomas.

This past weekend, Laker Dancers competed in two divisions: Lyrical and Hip Hop.

After scores were tabulated, Laker Dance came



The Laker Dance Team earned two national championship titles this past weekend.

home with a First Place in both divisions "crowning them National Champions times two!" Coach Turner said.

Turner said the team is appreciative of "the outpouring of support for them in their fundraising efforts."

"This wouldn't have been possible without it," she said.

The team celebrated their "undefeated season" Tuesday at Common Grounds Coffee & Yoga.

"They plan to take a couple weeks off and it will be time to recruit again and get clinics and try-outs started," Turner said.

Laker Dance is open to Russell County students sixth grade (Rising Sixth Graders) through 12th grade - depending on numbers involved.

Anyone interested can follow the Laker Dance Team Facebook page for updates and information.



WORKING ON A BUILDING

High above the city, repairs were being made recently to the roof of the Jamestown Christian Church on South Main St.

"Triple pay," bonuses

RCH Announces New CEO, Addresses Nurse Retention



By Wade Daffron
TJ Editor

After an hour of intense discussion and debate, the Russell County Hospital Board tackled two pressing issues: obtaining a new CEO, and addressing a nursing shortage.

The board met in special session Friday where they announced not only the securing of a CEO, but adoption of a plan to retain nurses being heavily recruited by other healthcare entities.

Scott Thompson, who served as CEO at Russell County Hospital (RCH) from September 2018 to December 2019, will return to the local healthcare facility as CEO once again effective May 1.

Thompson mostly recently served as Chief Executive

Officer for Select Specialty Hospital-Central Kentucky since June of 2021.

RCH Attorney Jeff Hoover said he reviewed a contract offered to Thompson, and "it got signed earlier today (Friday)."

The hospital board began looking for a new CEO after announcing just over two weeks ago they, and former Patrick J. Branco had "mutually agreed to terminate our employment relationship."

An issue the board wishes Thompson to address is a current nursing shortage at RCH.

The board voted Friday to award nurses with a \$2,000 bonus, and raise overtime

RCH,

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Courting Industry

RCIDA promoting the only Certified Food & Beverage Shovel-Ready site in state

By Wade Daffron
TJ Editor

They would love to shout it from the rooftops...if they could.

The Russell County Industrial Development Authority (RCIDA) is involved with constant observations, considerations, and most-importantly, negotiations in securing new industry for Russell County.

Lucas Witt, of MWM Consulting - a firm

obtained by the industrial authority - said last week Russell County is "in the mix" of those pursuing industry.

Last Wednesday, at the RCIDA's regular, monthly meeting, discussion ensued around companies interested in the area.

"We've had a busy month," Witt said. "Earlier this month, we presented to the governor and the

RCIDA,

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