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Superintendent Hodges announces retirement after 27 years in education

In an emotional moment during the Green County Board of Education meeting, Superintendent William Hodges announced his intent to retire from the district effective June 30, 2026.

Hodges, who has served as superintendent of his home district since 2018, delivered the news by reading a heartfelt letter to board members, staff, and the Community.

The announcement marked the end of an era for Green County Schools, where Hodges has served not only as superintendent but as a lifelong Dragon, deeply rooted in the Community he was called to lead.

Following the reading of the letter, Chair of the Board Marcy Goff offered remarks on behalf of the board.

"On behalf of the Green County Board of Education, I want to express our deepest gratitude to Superintendent Will Hodges for his years of faithful and visionary leadership. Mr. Hodges has led our district with integrity, steady resolve, and an unwavering commitment to doing what is best for our students, staff, and Community.

Under his leadership, the Green County School District has experienced meaningful progress in every area. From strengthening



**Superintendent
William Hodges**

our financial foundation and improving district facilities, to elevating student achievement and expanding opportunities in athletics and extracurricular programs, his focus has always been on moving the entire district forward. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that our schools are not only places of learning, but places of pride for our Community.

Superintendent Hodges' impact will be felt for generations. His leadership has positioned Green County Schools for continued success, and we are deeply thankful for the example he has set and the legacy he leaves behind. We wish him and his family the very best in retirement."

Superintendent Hodges' announcement letter is on page 10A

Hodges will retire after 27 years in education, a career that began in 1999 when he started teaching math at Shelby County High School. He returned home at the start of the 2000-2001 school year to join Green County High School, where he taught math, coached cross country and track and field, and later served as athletic director.

In 2008, Hodges accepted a call into school leadership, serving as assistant principal at LaRue County Middle School until 2010. That fall, he once again returned home to Green County, where he served as assistant principal at Green County Middle School.

In 2011, he was appointed the district's Director of Finance. His leadership responsibilities expanded in the fall of 2015 when he was additionally named Assistant Superintendent.

Throughout this period Hodges also continued to coach successful cross country and track and field teams. For his contributions as both a student athlete and coach Hodges was inducted as a member of the inaugural class

of the Greensburg/Green County High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2023. As the boys' and girls' cross country and track and field head coach, Will Hodges led teams to 24 regional titles, 15 in cross country and nine in track and field. Coach Hodges acquired 26 Heartland Athletic Conference titles in cross country and 18 in track and field. He has 11 individual state champions, eight as the track and field head coach, and three while serving as the boys' distance coach.

In 2018, Hodges was selected as Superintendent following the retirement of Jim Frank.

During his tenure as superintendent, Green County Schools experienced a period of significant success and transformation. The district consistently ranked among the region's highest performing school systems and led the state in post-secondary readiness, a key indicator measuring students' preparedness for entering college or beginning a career upon graduation.

**See Hodges,
page 10A**

Black History Month

Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future



Photo by Clevis Jeffries

Ms. Teresa Cowherd was the guest speaker during Saturday's Black History Month event at Green County Middle School. The theme of the program was "Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future." More photos from the event are inside.

Fire fatal to two in Summersville

Firefighters were alerted around 12:08 a.m. on Feb. 11 to a reported mobile home fire on William E Lobb Drive in Summersville. The first apparatus arrived on scene at approximately 12:15 and found the mobile home to be half involved with heavy fire and heavy smoke conditions throughout the rest of the structure. As firefighters started fire attack they were alerted of the possibility of two occupants possibly being inside the structure. Firefighters worked on gaining control of the fire while searching the unburned areas and found two occupants deceased inside.

The deceased were identified as Belinda

McDonald and Erb Routon.

Firefighters remained on scene for approximately three hours working on extinguishing the fire and assisting the coroner's office. The cause of the fire is still under investigation at this time however foul play is not expected.

Agencies assisting: Summersville Volunteer Fire Department, Green County Volunteer Fire Department, Taylor County Volunteer Fire Department, Green County Emergency Management, Green County Coroner's Office, Green County Sheriff's Department, Green County EMS, and Greensburg 911 Center.

KSP charges Green Co. man with child sexual exploitation offenses

The Kentucky State Police Electronic Crime Branch arrested Johnathan Taylor, 38, February 12 on a charge related to child sexual abuse material.

Mr. Taylor was arrested as the result of an undercover Internet Crimes Against Children investigation. The KSP Electronic Crime Branch began the investigation after discovering the suspect sharing images of child sexual exploitation online.

The investigation resulted in a search warrant at a residence in Greensburg, KY, on February 12, 2026.



Johnathan Taylor

Equipment used to facilitate the crime was seized and taken to KSP's forensic laboratory for examination. The investigation is ongoing.

Mr. Taylor is currently charged with one count of possession of matter portraying a minor in a sexual perfor-

mance. This charge is a Class-D felony, punishable by one to five years in prison. Mr. Taylor was lodged in the Taylor County Detention Center.

The Kentucky Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force is comprised of more than twenty-six local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The mission of the ICAC Task Force, created by the United States Department of Justice and administrated by the Kentucky State Police, is to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in developing a

response to cyber enticement and child sexual abuse material investigations. This support encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, prevention and Community education. The ICAC program was developed in response to the increasing number of children and teenagers using the internet, the proliferation of child sexual abuse material, and the heightened online activity of predators searching for unsupervised contact with underage victims.



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