

75 Cents

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Board of Education meets, considers new construction project at Dragon Stadium

Four recognized for going Above & Beyond

SPECIAL TO THE R-H

The Green County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, February 12, addressing personnel recognitions, facility improvements, and routine business matters.

As reported in last week's edition of the Greensburg Record-Herald, Superintendent Will Hodges formally announced his plans to retire from Green County Schools effective June 30, 2026. The board has started



Superintendent Will Hodges reads his resignation letter to the Board. Hodges plans to retire from Green County Schools effective June 30, 2026.

the process of hiring the next superintendent.

In items of business, the Board approved the initial step required by

the Kentucky Department of Education to begin consideration of a new construction project focused on improvements to the district's tennis courts and Dragon Stadium.

The proposed project includes construction of a new building near the tennis courts that would provide restrooms and storage space. Currently, there are no restroom facilities near the courts, requiring students to return to Green County High School or have temporary porta potties during events and practices.

Significant improvements are also planned for Dragon Stadium. The district intends to terrace two areas of the stadium with concrete landings to provide more stable and expanded seating. These

areas would allow additional space for spectators to bring chairs. The expanded seating would be located adjacent to the existing grandstand and near the end of the track closest to the Green County Area Technology Center.

Plans also include construction of a new stadium building to house restrooms, a concession stand, and an officials' changing room. This building would be located to the right of the grandstand along the existing stadium fence.

If funding allows, the district is also exploring the possibility of constructing a fieldhouse near the end of the stadium closest to Green County Primary School.

See BOE, page 10A

Buckner named Greensburg Fire Chief

DALE CURRY STAFF WRITER

Gary Buckner, who has served on the city and county fire departments since 2019, has been appointed Chief of the Greensburg Fire Department. He joins Bill Taylor, Chief of the Green County Fire Department, who was already serving in that capacity. Along with several other volunteers, they will be some of the first responders in emergencies in the area.



Chief Gary Buckner

"Getting to help our community is the most rewarding part of the job," Buckner said. "I was not always the best and being on the volunteer fire department is a way I can give back."

Buckner, who works full-time at another job, says that after he gets off work from his full-time position, he usually goes by the fire station and tries to do some work each day.

"I will probably be working anywhere from 24-30 hours a week at the fire station," Buckner said. "If I need to enter paperwork into the computer or if something needs to be done to one of the trucks, we try to coordinate that with other people."

Of course, the 24-30 hours a week that Buckner mentioned is if there are no emergencies for the fire department. Friday morning, there was a structure fire which meant Buckner and others had to roll out of bed about 3:00 a.m. to respond to that emergency.

Buckner, who previously served as a lieutenant in the department, also served as assistant city chief while Steve Gupton served as the chief.

While Buckner is still new on the job, he has a good understanding of the responsibilities that are necessary for him to complete.

"I have to do paperwork, a lot of paperwork," Buckner explained. "I enter all our training hours into the computer, also the run sheets into the state system. I coordinate with the city council and ayor for things we may need to help the department function better. If we are on scene of an emergency in the city, I would be the commanding officer."

He also knows that recruiting new members of the fire department is also a necessity.

"Our county chief, Bill Taylor, and I sat down last week and talked about ways to recruit," Buckner said.

In addition to volunteer information in local media and social media, Buckner went on to say that they will be at the back-to-school fests at schools to give information to people who may be interested in serving. He also said that people can pay their county fire dues at the same time at these festivals.

"A lot of our recruiting is through word of mouth," Buckner said.

He explained that even though there is a city fire department as well as a county fire department, both operate out of the same building and most if not all the people serve in both departments.

See Fire Chief, page 2A

Magistrates reject salary increase

CLEVIS JEFFRIES STAFF WRITER

Green County Fiscal Court, in a special called meeting Thursday, February 19, voted to decline a pay increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

"Each year, the magistrates have the option of receiving a pay increase based on the Consumer Price

Index. Since 2015, to my knowledge, the magistrates have never voted to accept the pay increase and voted against the increase this year as well," Judge-Executive John Frank

In other business, magistrates approved:

(1) The First Reading of Budget Amendment No. 26004 with Total Amended Revenues and Appropria-

tions amounting to \$159,386.22

(2) To advertise for bids for the Judicial Center mowing contract

(3) To advertise for bids for the Courthouse/PVA mowing contract

(4) To advertise for bids for the Judicial Center snow/ice removal

(5) To authorize Judge-Executive Frank

to sign a permanent easement pertaining to Whitlow-Elkins Road

(6) To authorize Judge Frank to sign a permanent easement regarding Carl Wade Road

(7) The First Reading of Ordinance No. 03-19-26 pertaining to Street-Legal Purpose Vehicles containing specific provisions

See Fiscal, page 2A

Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approves more than \$700,000 for projects across the Commonwealth

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved \$700,317 for agricultural diversification and rural development projects across the Commonwealth Friday at its monthly board meeting.

"Diversity in our agricultural landscape spells success for our farm producers," Commissioner of Agriculture and Board Chair Jonathan Shell said. "The projects awarded today by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board increase the economic value

farming has for our farm families and our Commonwealth."

County Programs County Agricultural Incentives Program (CAIP)

CAIP provides Kentucky agricultural producers with cost-share assistance on practices to allow them to improve and diversify their current farm operations. CAIP covers a wide variety of agricultural enterprises in its 11 incentive areas, including, but not limited to, beef and dairy cattle; farm infrastruc-

ture, fencing, and water enhancement; equine; forage; goats and sheep; horticulture; poultry; swine; bees and honey; timber and technology, as well as energy efficiency and production; marketing; and value-added production.

Six CAIPs, totaling \$522,000, were approved by the board in the following counties:

- Fayette (\$225,000)
- Green (\$30,000)
- Jessamine (\$50,000)*
- Kenton (\$108,000)
- Owen (\$20,000)
- Rowan (\$89,000)

Deceased Farm Animal Removal (DAR)

The Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program serves as a measure to facilitate the coordination of environmentally sound and cost-effective disposal of deceased livestock for Kentucky producers.

Two DARs, totaling \$20,000, were approved by the board in the following counties:

- Hardin (\$12,500)
- Russell (\$7,500)

See Ag Funds, page 8A



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