

Leader-Union-News

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday, May 23

1-4 p.m. - Cowden Fastpitch Softball Reunion at Cowden Community Center. For more information, text 618-267-5709 or 217-343-1503.

Monday, May 25

Happy Memorial Day! 10 a.m. - Altamont Masonic Lodge Memorial Day parade

Tuesday, May 26

Noon-2 p.m. - Card Sharks at Fayette County Senior Citizen Center
1-3 p.m. - Food pantry at First United Methodist Church at 308 N. Second St., Altamont

Thursday, May 28

Start of National Road garage sales in Altamont and Vandalia. Sales run through Saturday, May 30. Sellers encouraged to register with the National Road Interpretive Center by 4 p.m. Thursday, May 21.

Monday, June 2

10-11 a.m. - St. Elmo food pantry at 512 North Main, St. Elmo
5:30-6:30 p.m. - St. Elmo food pantry at 512 North Main, St. Elmo

Tuesday, June 3

1-3 p.m. - Food pantry at First United Methodist Church at 308 N. Second St., Altamont

Friday, June 5

1-10 p.m. - Kickoff to Summer Jamboree at Vandalia Swimming Pool. Live music, food trucks, raffles, and giveaways

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CELEBRATING GRADUATION



Photo by Rich Bauer

Ollie Whitehead celebrates after receiving her diploma during commencement exercises at Vandalia Community High School on Saturday evening. More graduation photos will appear in next week's Leader-Union.

Fayette County Board Meeting

DEBORAH SIMOX
CORRESPONDENT

The Tuesday, May 12 Fayette County Board Meeting was opened by Chair Jacob Harris. There were no Public Comments by the Audience.

Prior Board Minutes from Thursday, April 16 were approved.

County Board Committee Reports:

Committee #1 - Finance Committee Chair Jacob Harris led a discussion regarding the elected Officials Pay Resolution. It was to be voted on in the New Business portion of the meeting.

Committee #3 - Public Building & Grounds Committee Chair Mack Payne reported that the Committee was working on the process of getting a new Courthouse built or just the jail put up to the vote in the 2027 election. Also the Committee meetings will be moved to the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

In the Administrator's Report Bellwether LLC Consultant Dustin Harmon reported that Items #1 & #2 from the Consent Agenda will be tabled because there will be a Public Hearing June 2 at 6:20 p.m. followed by a Special Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. regarding these items:

- Solar Ordinance Amendment, and
- BESS Ordinance Amendment.

These items from the Consent Agenda & Items Continued from Finance Committee Consent Agenda were discussed and

approved:

• Variance request made by US Solar for above ground cabling at the prospective solar farm (Parcel 01-12-29-100-002) which is owned by Richard and Susan Feezel, Joint Trust et al, and

• Appointment of Travis Portz as Trustee to the Brownstown Fire District.

In Old Business the contract/updated contract for renovation of the jail presented by Goldberg Group Architects was approved. The adjustment for Phase 1 would be \$256,000 plus 8% for architectural design costs, which would equal an additional \$20,480.

In New Business the elected Officials Pay Resolution, which will begin on December 1 was approved.

On the Claims Consent Agenda these items were approved:

- Motion to approve Claims from April 16, to May 12,
- Committee 2,
- EMA,
- Highway Department, and
- Board Member Pay.

Board Members' Comments & Non-Action Items: Congratulations was offered to County Engineer Mike Maxey on his retirement after 27 years of service. The County will be taking employment applications for his position. Applicants will be required to take a State examination.

The next regular Fayette County Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. at the Vandalia City Hall. The Public is encouraged to attend.

ACHS Class of 2026 Officially Graduates



The ACHS Class of 2026 celebrates their commencement in a cloud of confetti.



Salutatorian Myron Lane Spring



Student Council President Kaylee Lurkins



Valedictorian Zacariah Reyes



Class President Dayton Tabbert

BY MARK HOSKINS

The Class of 2026 have now seen their time at ACHS officially come to an end as they received their diplomas during their graduation ceremony this past weekend.

The graduating seniors entered the gym to the playing of 'Pomp and Circumstance No. 2' by the ACHS band before student council president Kaylee Lurkins delivered the welcome address.

Myron Lane Spring was named salutatorian and delivered a

well-written speech.

Next, Mike Walker, representing the Altamont Education Foundation presented scholarships to seven seniors. Cooper Pals, Katie Tedrick, Kade Milleville, Hope Roedel, and Thomas Hyatt each received a \$500 scholarship while Kaylee Lurkins and Riley Rippetoe both received a \$1000 scholarship from the AEF.

Zacariah Reyes next took the stage as he was named the class valedictorian. Reyes eloquently discussed how success is measured

with an eye on the future.

ACHS principal Peggy Bueker recognized all the students who had been named student of the month throughout the school year: Emma Bowman, Cooper Pals, Emma Sphar, Dayton Tabbert, Katie Tedrick, Brock Wendling, Kaylee Lurkins, and Kade Milleville. Kaylee Lurkins was honored as Student of the Year, which includes a \$500 prize from an anonymous donor.

After superintendent Casey Adam certified the class, CUSD #10 Board

of Education Secretary Chris Guse read the students' names as CUSD #10 Board President Dale Laue presented their diplomas.

Class President Dayton Tabbert delivered a short and sweet farewell address to the class before hats were thrown in the air in celebration.

Lucas Berg, Larson Burns, Henry Niermann, Landon Savage, Kennedy Schultz, and Kaiden Wolff served as junior marshals.

Congratulations to the class of 2026.