

By Jemi Chew
UK Student Journalist

ond cohort for a transformative program known as the Local Media Association's (LMA) Family and Independent Media Sustainability Lab. LMA is one of the largest media trade associations in North America, with more than 3000 media properties involved.

"This is absolutely a transformational opportunity," Nolan Group Media CEO Jay Nolan said. "You get training by world class experts from Google and from

across the media industry. Also you get a full year of consulting and coaching from professionals for free. Then, as a cherry on top, you get up to \$10,000 to conduct an experiment designed to help you be a better, more sustainable local news provider. We are so grateful!"

As part of the lab, Nolan Group Media will strengthen and build upon their existing business model through a collaborative process that includes guid-

ance from industry experts, funding for a new initiative to better serve Eastern Kentucky audiences, and access to one-on-one tailored training sessions with industry experts this year.

The program is sponsored by the Google News Initiative and the Knight Foundation.

From April 1-3, 2025, Nolan joined other members of the cohort to learn about the media industry from Google experts in New York City and

to represent Nolan Group Media and Eastern Kentucky among other industry leaders.

“As we continue to learn new ways to use technology, extend limited resources, and hopefully raise pay for our talented team members, our ultimate goal is to produce better local journalism. I hope our experiments help us make life for our audience just a little better in every community we serve,” Nolan said.

FROM PAGE 1

way a farmers market can hope for. I can only hope that I can nurture the roots that came before me and grow the branches even further.”

During the last two winter months, Berea Farmers Market has resided at 207 North Broadway in Old

FROM PAGE 1

100 acres a year, times 20 years, you're talking about 2,000 acres," Thomas said. "That's still less than one percent of our agriculture land even if we grow a little bit. The percentages just don't back up the comment that we're losing all of our farmland."

Magistrates Billy Ray Hughes and Brian Combs did express concerns about local farmers, however, noting that development does have some impact.

Citing a briefing he heard recently at the Madison County Extension Office, Hughes quoted an agricultural economist who lamented the impact that residential development has had on the price of farm land. "He said the land that's being consumed by residential development isn't what concerned him, because it is a very small part," Hughes said, "It's the impact that the development has on the value of farm land. It drives up the cost of farm land so much that it makes it prohibitive for people to continue to farm."

Brian Combs mentioned that the people he works with in industry have small farms, but they work 9 to 5 jobs to supplement their farm income. He said people need to recognize the need to support local farmers, such as purchasing their goods at local farmer's markets. Combs also said that continuing to support farmers is crucial to the future of the food supply.

At the same time, Combs said, county officials are obligated to protect the rights of land owners.

"I don't want people to think for any reason that we're against farmers. That's not the case at all," Combs said.

"For me, it's about the property owner having the right to do what they want to do with their land. If a farmer decides that nobody else [in the family] will farm that particular property,

Town.

According to Hudson, the location has been their “winter home” for two years thanks to the generosity of Charley Hamilton, of Dreaming Creek Brewery, and Chadwick Horn and Tommy Helmick of Aquatic Gallery, in Richmond who has owned the property.

“We want to thank these guys so much for their support. It’s one

and that it would be better to sell it, then that's their right to do so. We're here to protect the rights of the people."

In other news, the Fiscal Court went into executive session to discuss potential litigation. When they emerged and went back into regular session, they unanimously adopted a measure directing the Madison County attorney to file a lawsuit to exercise imminent domain at the request of a property owner. The lawsuit is in connection with a proposed fire station on 1000 Carr Lane in northern Madison County. The property is located south of the Kentucky River, east of Interstate 75, and north of the exit 97.

During the judge's report, Taylor noted an upcoming town hall meeting on April 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Kentucky Regional Airport. The meeting is a chance for citizens to get updates on county government.

Also Tuesday, Taylor presented a proclamation declaring April Child Abuse Prevention Month in Madison County. Accepting the declaration was Victoria Bengel of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Madison and Clark Counties.

A proclamation recognizing April as Fair Housing Month was accepted by Jerri Dyer of Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises (FAHE). Meanwhile, Jennifer Lainhart, executive director of Hope's Wings, urged members of the Fiscal Court to donate \$1,500 to help shelter women who have suffered abuse. Lainhart said because of the recent freeze on federal grants, a significant facet of Hope's Wings' operations – getting housing for those making a transition from abusive homes, is in danger. As part of the 13th annual Jail and Bail fundraiser, public officials and prominent citizens are "arrested" enabling them to raise funds for Hope's Wings. The event will take place April 18 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Central Bank Community Room in Richmond.

thing to say you support local, but these guys have really put their money where their mouth is, so to speak. What that means our community is immeasurable," Hudson said.

If that wasn't enough, with the new beginning, a new set of opportunities comes to the local community. This year will see the return of the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs, a Community Spotlight Program sponsored by Just Love Coffee, an eco-friendly tote bag fundraiser; A Sprout Voucher program for youths under the age of 18, continuation of the Kentucky Double Dollars Program for EBT/SNAP card recipients, free family events nearly every month plans for a community picnic, lots of free live music, youth programming, and more. All of which are made possible by partnering with other local groups and organizations, and according

to Hudson, "To make a community stronger, you first have to embrace being part of that community. I want people to love coming to farmers market for not only the local farm and artisan products, or the programs that help budgets, but for the positivity we strive to create. It's not the same as the chore that is going to buy groceries."

Every Saturday Morning, Hudson hosts a Facebook Live video giving viewers a tour of what's available at market that week, pertinent information, and sometimes including goofy puns or adorable spokes-critters. To keep up with the goings on at Berea Farmers Market and to get information on these events, follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Market hours for April will be 10 a.m.-1 p.m., with expanded hours of 9 a.m.-1 p.m. beginning in May-October.

A Madison County grand jury recently indicted a man on seven counts of possession of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor. According to the indictment, three counts involved a minor under 12 years old, and four more counts involved a minor over 12 years old. The images were computer generated, depicting minors between the ages of six and fourteen, according to court documents.

Matthew R. Donahue was the defendant, and the witness of record is Tyson Yancy of the Richmond Police Department. The accused was allegedly found to be in possession of the images on Jan. 7, 2025, according to the indictment.

The grand jury issued a number of indictments related to drug offenses and

other abuse cases
in Madison County,
including:

• Kevin Rogers was indicted for felony first degree trafficking in a controlled substance, and felony tampering with physical evidence and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Defendant is also accused of destroying a glass pipe with the knowledge that it might become evidence in a judicial proceeding. The witness of record was Lukas Gabbard of the Madison County Sheriff's Office. The alleged incident occurred on September 8, 2023, according to court documents.

Online:



For more indictments,
click on the QR code
with your smartphone

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



BEREA
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Phone: (859) 986-4391
200 Harrison Rd
Berea, KY 40403

Berea Municipal Utilities, a department of the City of Berea, will accept sealed bid proposals for the following new vehicles:

- (1) 4X4 Mid-size SUV
- (2) 4X4 Half-ton pickup trucks
- (1) 1-ton 4X4 Truck chassis

Vehicles must be new and available for immediate delivery.

- * Proposal should include delivery to the City of Berea no later than May 30, 2025.
- ** The City of Berea is a tax-exempt organization. A copy of the tax exemption certificate is available upon request.
- *** Responders are not required to submit proposals for all units.

All interested bidders should contact Kevin Howard or Josh Gabbard at Berea Municipal Utilities for a complete list of specifications for each unit.

Bids will be accepted at the office of the City Clerk, **BEREA CITY HALL, 212 CHESTNUT STREET, BEREA, KENTUCKY 40403.**

Bid proposals must be received no later than **3:00 pm** on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025**.

Bid proposals must be submitted with a summary total and complete list of specifications for each individual unit listed on a cover sheet.

Bids will be opened at **3:15 pm, April 29, 2025**, at the office of the City Clerk, Berea City Hall, 212 Chestnut Street, Berea, KY 40403.

The City of Berea reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, waive any irregularities or discrepancies in bidding, and select the bid, if any, that it determines to be in its best interest.