

WINNING  
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\$2,500.00

\$250.00

WHEEL OF FORTUNE  
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# A Helping Hand



Richard Abend, an Itty Bitty Purples student with cerebral palsy, rides his new adaptive tricycle provided by the Heartland AMBUCS bike foundation Elizabethtown chapter around the playground at T.C. Cherry Elementary on Tuesday.

## Local child gets therapeutic tricycle, courtesy of community, nonprofit

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Since local 4-year-old Richard Abend was born, going a step forward has required the extra mile. Seventy-five hours of intensive therapy over three weeks enabled him, as a toddler with cerebral palsy, to crawl. Since then, he’s worked with a series of mobility tools – gait trainers, walkers, muscle activation garments and so on – to enhance movement.

And – thanks to the Elizabethtown “Heartland” chapter of the mobility nonprofit AMBUCS and a small community of givers – Abend has his own therapeutic tricycle.

On Tuesday, the region chapter presented it to Abend, who rode around a small play structure beside T.C. Cherry Elementary with increasing comfort.

A small group of Abend’s supporters – his mother and father Krista Erickson and Chris Abend, another husband-and-wife pair from the

local nonprofit, and several supporting Richard Abend at the Itty Bitty Purples preschool – looked on.

“It means (a lot) when you see that advocates come out at various stages of the community to help realize this (...),” Erickson said.

The tricycle gives her son more freedom to play with his peers and participate socially.

Additionally, the tricycle – with hand pedals linked to foot pedals – enables him to utilize his upper body strength to start it up and get a feel for the cadence in his legs, Chris Abend said. They had tried it out earlier this year – and when he transitioned to a walker, his gait, endurance and speed were vastly improved.

The local chapter presenting the tricycle comprises about 10 volunteers. The national parent organization aims to support children with challenges surrounding mobility and independence by working with chapters that partner with physical, speech and occupational therapists to provide

kids its AmTryke adaptability bikes, according to the organization.

For each kid it serves, the Heartland chapter gets a kid’s measurements and sends them to its parent national organization, which sends parts of the customized tricycle to them for assembly. Launched November 2024, the chapter distributed at least 10 in its first year. It’s on track to distribute 15 this year.

The bikes, costing \$800 - \$1,500, are funded via private individuals typically with children with mobility issues, charities, corporations and other donors, chapter Secretary Tracy Olsen said. Richard Abend’s is funded by the family, the Louisville-based charity Shirley’s Way, Chris Abell’s shop Bowling Green Pipe and Cigar, and a shop regular.

Asked why she and her husband Darrell Olsen volunteer, she said, “At the very first one we did, just watching the reaction of that child when they see that bike ... I hope (you’ve got) tissues – all I’m saying.”

### BOWLING GREEN

## Proposed tax rates remain unchanged

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Property taxes in the City of Bowling Green are proposed to remain unchanged for 2025 as officials are set to hold a public hearing on the matter in City Hall’s commission chamber at 4:30 p.m. Aug 19.

“We are not proposing to increase taxes,” said Katie Schaller-Ward, chief financial officer for the city.

The proposal calls for the tax rate on real estate to remain at \$0.204 per \$100 of assessed value and the rate for personal property to stay at \$0.260 per \$100. The real estate rate was lowered from \$0.205 to \$0.204 last year, and the rate for personal property has stayed at \$0.260 since 1980 and has not moved.

By law, a municipality cannot exceed 4% growth in existing property value without lowering the real estate tax rate. Schaller-Ward said since growth for existing property this year currently stands at 6.3%, commissioners could decide to lower the rate.

“Anytime you have a rate that exceeds the compensating rate, you have to have a public hearing,” she said. “... it was a modest difference between the .205 to .204. This year, we’re looking at something very different, (but) I need to have that public hearing to go before the board to get their input on, ultimately, what they want us to do.”

Real property refers to real estate within the city, while personal property includes tangible property owned by businesses in the city, like equipment.

Property value is assessed by the Warren County Property Valuation Administrator, not by the city.

“We have no control over someone’s property value,” she said. “The city only sets the tax rate ... we have to rely on their numbers.”

Existing property values were assessed at \$7.3 billion in 2024. This year, the number has swelled to \$7.9 billion. The city has budgeted for \$15.5 million in tax revenue in its FY2026 budget, which Schaller-Ward said is “where we would want to try and fall.”

After the city’s tax rates are approved, tax bills will be sent to property owners through the mail.

See TAX, 3A

# KSP investigating trooper-involved shooting in Warren

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The Kentucky State Police is investigating a trooper-involved shooting that took place Monday afternoon near Interstate 165 and Sweeney Road in Warren County.

Katan Parker, public information officer for KSP Post 3, told

the Daily News Monday that a suspect was taken into custody and no injuries were reported.

“There is no threat to the community,” Parker said then.

Post 3 was notified of a collision on the southbound side of I-165 around 2:30 p.m. Monday.

According to a KSP press release, Gregoria Lopez, 24, of

Olive Hill, had been involved in the accident and was allegedly attempting to steal multiple vehicles.

The release states Lopez fled from KSP troopers into a wooded area. The release states that “at least two” troopers fired their weapons during the interaction with Lopez.

Lopez was not struck by any shots fired and was arrested. He was transported to a local hospital as a precautionary measure “for a suspected reaction to an illegal substance,” Post 3 stated.

Post 3 has requested an investigation be led by the Kentucky State Police’s Critical Incident Response Team.

“To protect the integrity of an ongoing investigation, it is KSP’s standard operating procedure not to release specific details until vital witnesses have been interviewed and pertinent facts have been gathered,” the release states. “Timelines to complete investigations vary based on the complexity of the case.”