



# Baccalaureate Ceremony For The Garrard County High School Class of 2025

Join us for the 2025 Garrard County High School Baccalaureate Ceremony at the Lancaster Baptist Church, 201 Richmond Street on Sunday, May 18th beginning at 6 p.m. The community is invited to attend. A reception will follow the ceremony.

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# Garrard CENTRAL RECORD

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## Garrard County Experiences Rare Earthquake: No Damage Reported

By Ted Cox  
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Garrard County was rattled by a 2.8 magnitude earthquake early Sunday morning, the second seismic event affecting the state within 24 hours.

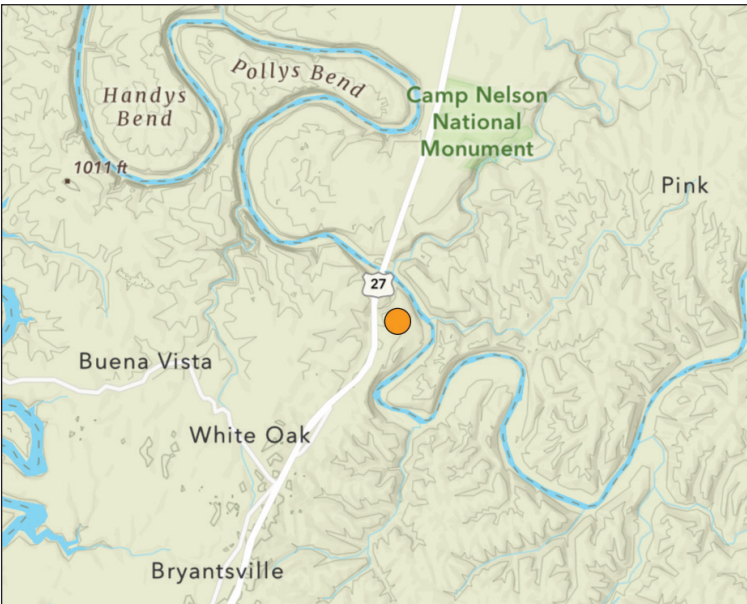
The United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported that the quake struck at 3:41 a.m. local time, with the epicenter located just north of Lancaster, near the Kentucky River, close to the Jessamine-Garrard county line.

The tremor, recorded at a depth of approximately 29.7 kilometers, was felt by residents in several surrounding communities, including Lancaster itself. Although the earthquake was relatively mild, nearly a dozen people reported feeling the shaking on the USGS website. So far, no damage or injuries have been reported.

Authorities in Garrard County have been monitoring the situation but have not issued any alerts, as the quake caused no apparent structural damage.

This earthquake came less than a day after a strong

See **Earthquake**, A-8



Location of the 2.8 magnitude earthquake recorded early Sunday morning in northern Garrard County. The epicenter was situated just south of the Camp Nelson RV Park, near the Kentucky River along the Jessamine-Garrard county line.

## Multiple Drug and Theft Charges Following FLOCK Alert on Stolen Plates

By Ted Cox  
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Two individuals were arrested in Garrard County on Wednesday, May 7, after law enforcement responded to a FLOCK system alert indicating a possible stolen vehicle in the area. The suspects, Charles Doan and Jordan Upchurch, both of Monticello, face multiple charges related to drug trafficking, possession, and a stolen government official license plate.

“This was a very interesting arrest situation that took place,” Lancaster Police Chief Ryan Hughes stated. “That vehicle you see there... has a Kentucky offi-

See **Stolen Government Plates**, A-7



Charles Doan



Jordan Upchurch



Roadside FLOCK cameras alerted local authorities to a suspicious vehicle last week.



## Garrard County Schools Honors Five Educators

By Ted Cox  
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Garrard County Schools proudly recognized five outstanding educators as recipients of the 2025 Whitaker Bank Teacher of the Year award. The honorees were celebrated during the district’s annual Teacher of the Year Banquet, an event that highlighted the dedication and passion these teachers

See **Teachers**, A-11



The 2025 Whitaker Bank Teachers of the Year: Representatives from Whitaker Bank alongside honorees Mrs. Laura Smith, Mrs. Brittiany Watts, Mrs. Tara Noe, Mrs. Carrie Elleman, and Mrs. Michelle Hoskins.

## Drama Students Dazzle at Lancaster Grand Theatre

By Ted Cox  
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Students from Garrard County High School (GCHS) and Garrard Middle School (GMS) delivered a memorable performance of The Wizard of Oz at the historic Lancaster Grand Theatre, showcasing their theatrical talent and months of dedicated preparation. The beloved musical, based on the classic 1939

See **Wizard of Oz**, A-11



The talented cast of \*The Wizard of Oz\* celebrates a successful performance at the Lancaster Grand Theatre—proudly representing GCHS and GMS with dedication, teamwork, and theatrical flair.

## Golden Lions Prevail in Late-Inning Thriller Against Rockcastle

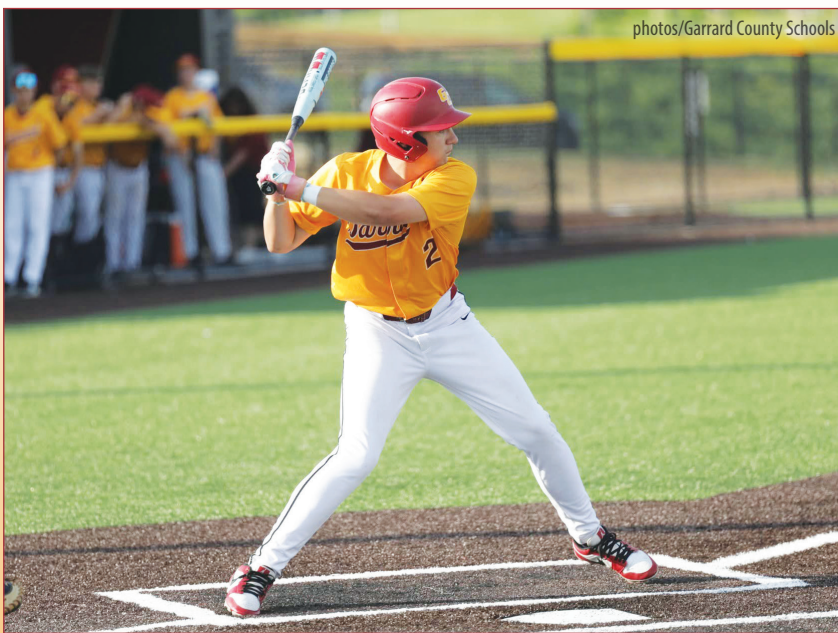
By Ted Cox  
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In a dramatic Monday evening showdown on May 12, the Garrard County Golden Lions edged out Rockcastle County 4-3 in the final inning, securing a hard-fought non-conference victory at home. The game was decided in the bottom of the ninth, marking a resilient finish for the Golden Lions, who now hold a 8-17 record.

Garrard County jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning, but the game tightened as Rockcastle County chipped away. The Rockets managed to bring in one run in the third inning and added two more in the sixth, temporarily taking a 3-2 lead. Garrard County answered with a run in the seventh to tie it, before clinching the win in the bottom of the ninth.

Senior Jaydon Noe proved instrumental for Garrard County, reaching base in three of five plate appearances and scoring three of the team’s four runs. He also made a brief but

See **Baseball**, A-10



Garrard County junior Zacharee Stacy (#2) steps up to the plate during Monday’s win over Rockcastle County. Stacy pitched eight strong innings, allowing just four hits and one earned run while striking out seven in the Golden Lions’ 4-3 victory.

photos/Garrard County Schools

## Drainage Design Change Delays RCUT Construction at Rogers Road Intersection

By Ted Cox  
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The Garrard County Fiscal Court convened on Monday, May 12, where Judge Executive Chris Elleman invited Brandon Taylor of the Allen Company to provide an update on the ongoing intersection improvement

project at Old Lexington Road and Rogers Road. The meeting focused heavily on construction delays and design modifications to the Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT) project, which is being constructed to improve safety at the busy intersection near Rocky Top.

See **Intersection**, A-9

## Council Votes to Declare City Hall Surplus Property

By Ted Cox  
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In a pivotal decision reflecting a shift in municipal priorities, the Lancaster City Council voted unanimously on Monday, May 12, to declare the existing City Hall building as surplus property, paving the way for its sale through a public sealed bidding process. The move is part of a broader effort by city

leadership to reduce operational costs, streamline facilities, and repurpose public funds toward more strategic uses.

Mayor Michael Gaffney introduced the resolution during the “New Business” portion of the meeting. The mayor emphasized that the concept of selling the current City Hall had been discussed in prior meetings and was now ready for

See **City Hall**, A-9

## City Approves Second Reading of Water Rate Increase Despite Public Concerns

By Ted Cox  
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In a contentious meeting on Monday, the Lancaster City Council narrowly approved the second reading of a proposed 12.5% water rate increase set to take effect on July 1, following a 3-2 vote. The decision comes after months of deliberation and public scrutiny, with concerns raised about affordability, bill-

ing transparency, and long-term rate management.

Mayor Michael Gaffney opened the discussion by acknowledging delays tied to an audit review meant to ensure no water department funds were misallocated to other departments. The mayor confirmed that the audit found no such misuse, clearing the way for the council to proceed with the

See **Water Rates**, A-9

## City Moves Forward with Lagoon Clean-Out at Water Plant

By Ted Cox  
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During its regular meeting on Monday, May 12, the Lancaster City Council approved a motion to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the clean-out of the lagoon at the city’s water treatment plant, citing environmental concerns and regulatory compli-

ance requirements as pressing motivations for the action.

Mayor Michael Gaffney explained that the lagoon—used to collect and settle out wastewater from filter cleaning and other maintenance operations at the plant—has not been functioning as effectively as intended. The lagoon was originally

See **Lagoon**, A-9

## City Council Advances First Reading of 2025-26 Budget

By Ted Cox  
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The Lancaster City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, May 12, during which members approved the first reading of the proposed 2025-2026 city budget in a 3-2 vote. The session featured extensive discussion on financial projec-

tions, staff compensation planning, and a proposal to provide municipal funding to the local homeless coalition.

Mayor Michael Gaffney presented the first reading of the city’s budget, noting that it reflects updated figures based on ten months of current-year financial data. The mayor stated

See **City Budget**, A-11

## Lancaster Approves Easement Agreement with Garrard County Extension Office

By Ted Cox  
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During its regular meeting on Monday, May 12, the Lancaster City Council unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) granting a temporary construction grading easement to the Garrard

County Extension Office. The easement will allow for necessary site work as part of a planned new building project on Extension Office property.

Mayor Michael Gaffney introduced the item as new business, explaining that the Extension Office is seeking to

See **Easement**, A-11

## GMS Archery Team Qualifies for NASP World Championship After Strong National Performance



Elijah Lamb (left) and Curtis “CJ” Walker (right) led Garrard Middle School with top individual finishes at the 2025 US Eastern Nationals, earning 1st and 2nd place respectively in the 3D competition.

By Ted Cox  
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The Garrard Middle School Archery Team has secured a place at the upcoming 2025 NASP World Championship

Tournament following a standout performance at the 2025 US Eastern Nationals held Saturday, May 10, in Louisville, Kentucky. The team finished 16th out of 152 teams in the 3D

See **Archery**, A-11