



WEEKEND EDITION

Kentucky New Era.

September 6, 2025 | \$2

WWW.KENTUCKYNEWERA.COM

Volume 140, Number 4 | Hopkinsville, Ky. Est. 1869

Magistrates OK biggest tax cut in 25 years

BY TONYA S. GRACE | KENTUCKY NEW ERA

Residents in Christian County will see the biggest tax cut officials have made in a quarter-century when they receive their tax bills in coming weeks.

The bills should be going

out later this month and through the beginning of next month, said Christian County Judge-Executive Jerry Gilliam.

They will reflect a decision in 2025 by the Christian Fiscal Court to lower property taxes from 17.6 cents

per \$100 of assessed property valuation to 16.7 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, a decision made possible by growth in the tax base.

Magistrates voted during meetings in August to lower the property taxes, approving the measure late last

month with first and second readings on the decrease in property taxes.

“Whether that’s through reassessment or new growth, that’s what’s contributing to the tax base growing,” Gilliam noted of the decision.

“In return, we don’t need to charge as much for that base to get pretty much the same amount of revenue,” the judge continued.

The assessment for 2025 ad valorem taxes on

SEE CUT/PAGE A3



Superintendent Chris Benzel and Chair Tom Bell focusing on construction updates presentation for the new Christian County High School.

School board hears construction update

BY JENNY MYERS  
NEW ERA STAFF WRITER

During Thursday’s Board of Education meeting, Kevin Hitchell with Alliance Co. gave a construction update to the board on the new Christian County High School.

Hitchell said they are “hitting some big milestones”, specifically mentioning the Agriculture Academy being close to completion, the auxiliary gym installing equipment and putting in basketball goals, rock being placed in parking lot two, windows beginning to be installed, and the main gym has started to be painted.

He also brought seven change orders, which included adding a second dumpster to be installed at the high school for better accessibility. The total cost will be \$4,625.

The board also focused on its high quality

Photo by Jenny Myers/ KNE

Kevin Hitchell with Alliance Co. presenting construction updates for the new high school.

SEE BOARD/PAGE A3

United Way announces goal at kickoff breakfast

UWP has raised \$235,000 of their goal

BY JENNY MYERS  
NEW ERA STAFF WRITER

United Way of the Pennyrile had the Christian County Senior Citizens Center decked out in pink for its 2025-2026 campaign kickoff. “Give Unlimited Possibilities” inspired by Barbie, was this year’s theme.

Bri Smith and Abigail Landrum, campaign co-chairs, announced this year’s goal is to raise \$715,000, with \$235,000 already raised.

Smith said, “this year, we are going bigger than ever... anything is possible as long as we are doing it together.”

Each division, including industrial, government, professional, residential, education, and commercial, have set their goals to accomplish.

The industrial division, chaired by Martha Steil, Samantha Gibson, Christy Stokes, John Stahl, and Andy Pitts set their goal at \$185,000 for the campaign.

The government division, chaired by Leslie Sowell, Adam Smith, Lucas Stagner, and Diane Turner hope to bring in \$145,000.

The professional division, chaired by Nicole Cravens, Lanie Ledford, Kristin Knight, Ryleigh Oldham, and Jake Williams have their goal set at \$106,000.

The residential division, chaired by Lana Bastin, Nancy Moore, Darrell Gustafson, Dan Kemp, Ashley Nichols, and Steve Tribble set their minimum goal to \$106,000.

The education division, chaired by

SEE UNITED/PAGE A3

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldiers to deploy to southern border

BY MAJ. PAUL O’DANIEL  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT)

Beginning in early October, approximately 500 Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Headquarters and other enabling units from Fort Campbell will deploy to the Southern Border to support U.S. Northern Command’s mission to secure and protect the territorial integrity of the United States.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) will assume the role of Joint Task Force headquarters from the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and will be charged with overseeing units of all U.S. service branches operating along the U.S. Southern Border.

The unit will operate under the direction of U.S. Northern Command, which is working in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Units from multiple installations across the Joint Force will fall under the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Headquarters, while physically located in various locations along the southern United States.

“For 83 years, the Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) have stood ready to answer the Nation’s call. Now as we prepare to secure and protect our country’s territory, we look forward to continuing the important work of U.S. Northern Command and the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and working with the interagency and other partners in the region.” — Maj. Gen. David Gardner, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell

For further information please contact 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Public Affairs Office at usarmy.campbell.101-abn-div.mbx.101pao@army.mil.

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CONTENTS			
OBITUARIES	A2	CROSSWORD	B4-5
BILLY GRAHAM	A2	CLASSIFIEDS	B3
COMICS	B4-5	HOROSCOPES	B4-5

OBITUARIES	
Terry Sigler	Gregory Watson
Teresa Ingle	Arnold Brunson
Conney Floyd	