



Simply Andrea

by Andrea Massey

Thank God for the rain we have had and much prayer for those that have suffered during the bad storms and lost things. For God knows and her will provide.

This past Sunday our morning message came from Rev. Andrew Baskin, from Berea, Kentucky.

His message from the book of first John the third chapter,

message topic "Clean Sweep". As many know, Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, in Lynch, Kentucky was under the leadership of Rev. Ronnie Hampton, but after twenty-nine years of dedicated service to the church. He will retire from church on September 27, 2026. He will be missed at the church but will still remain faithful member of the church family.

Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist church has officially accepted Rev. Andrew Baskin, as the interim pastor at this time. Rev. Andrew Baskin is a well-known instructor at Berea College and continues to serve in several positions at the college and on several boards in the community. He is dedicated to our youth and helps them succeed in life. Please help us welcome Rev. Andrew Baskin and his lovely wife to our church family.

Continued prayers for the lost in our community and around the cities. Prayer for our children as they continue in school.

Pray for our nation and leaders of our nation.

Sending Happy Birthday and Anniversary wishes out to all celebrating them.

I have a very special Happy Birthday wish to send out to my sweet granddaughter Nevaeh Elise Massey, who turns eleven years old.

Remember all the events coming up in a few weeks.

"Food For Thought"

"Hold tight will have some Food for thought next week as I am attending a meeting"

"Remember always go after your dreams and don't let anybody steal your spirit"

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Representatives from Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College, the City of Cumberland, and Harlan County Public Schools gathered to celebrate the donation of the former Cumberland High School property to the City of Cumberland. The agreement preserves access to the softball field for Harlan County students while creating new opportunities for the historic property to serve the community in the future. Pictured, from left: Scott Sherman, District 5 Board Member and Vice Chair, Harlan County Schools; Paul Bryant, vice chancellor for business affairs, SKCTC; Jill Creech, Cumberland campus director and executive assistant to the chancellor, SKCTC; Dr. Lee Harrison, chancellor, SKCTC; Robin Smith, city clerk, City of Cumberland; Dr. Joshua Doyle, principal, Harlan Elementary School; Brett W. Johnson, superintendent, Harlan County Public Schools; and Charles Raleigh, mayor of Cumberland.

SKCTC Gifts Former Cumberland High School Property to City

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eral possibilities to repurpose the facility in ways that would benefit Cumberland and the broader region. These efforts included an extensive feasibility study and two grant-funded initiatives focused on establishing a regional recovery and workforce training center. However, the combined challenges of redevelopment costs and the COVID-19 pandemic prevented those plans from moving forward.

"We understand the deep history and emotional connection this facility holds, and we regret that the property has remained unused," said Harrison. "Donating it to the City gives Cumberland the opportunity to pursue new possibilities while ensuring the site remains a local asset."

Cumberland Mayor Charles Raleigh said the city plans to pursue funding opportunities to revitalize portions of

the former CHS facility and explore new uses that would benefit the community.

"The City and I have many dreams for the high school building and there are so many possibilities," said Raleigh. "It could be used for business use, a hotel, ambulance services, or potentially moving the city hall to that location. The future will depend on available funding and community support, but we are excited to begin exploring what comes next for this important landmark."

Harlan County Schools Superintendent Brett W. Johnson expressed appreciation for the agreement that preserves access to the softball field.

"We are grateful for the commitment demonstrated by both SKCTC and the City of Cumberland to preserving continued access to these fields for Harlan County Public Schools and our students," Johnson said. "These facilities are a valuable asset to our students and the broader community, providing opportunities to participate in athletics while developing teamwork, leadership, school spirit, and pride."

Harlan County Fiscal Court Receives Clean Audit From State

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ing principles, or GAAP, because Harlan County prepares its financial statements using the Commonwealth's regulatory basis of accounting rather than traditional GAAP.

That language does not represent a finding that Harlan County improperly handled its finances.

In fact, the Auditor of Public Accounts specifically noted that the regulatory accounting method used by Harlan County is an acceptable reporting methodology and is used for 116 of Kentucky's 120 fiscal court audits.

Under that method, Harlan County received an unmodified opinion — commonly regarded as a clean audit opinion — with auditors concluding that the county's financial statement fairly represented its financial activity in all material respects.

The audit was conducted under generally accepted auditing standards, Government Au-

ditng Standards issued by the U.S. Comptroller General and the Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts' Fiscal Court Audit Guide.

The audit covers the administration of Harlan County Judge/Executive Dan Mosley and members of the Harlan County Fiscal Court.

While government audit reports containing serious findings understandably attract public attention, an audit in which auditors find no instances of noncompliance and no material weaknesses is also noteworthy.

For taxpayers, it means the people entrusted with managing county government finances have again come through the state's annual examination without the types of findings that can signal deficiencies in financial oversight, record-keeping or compliance.

The complete audit is available through the Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts.

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