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Rowan County News

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New Chief, Captain and Lieutenant sworn in at Morehead PD



Mayor Laura White- Brown swearing in Chief of Police Josh Ison

Big changes for the Morehead Police Department!

The City of Morehead is proud to announce the appointments of Chief of Police Josh Ison, Captain Derek Howard and Lieu-

tenant Eric Plank at the Morehead Police Department.

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026, Mayor Laura White-Brown and the Morehead Police Department celebrated the



Mayor Laura White- Brown swearing in Captain Derek Howard

swearing-in of their new leadership team at the Morehead PD.

Chief Ison brings years of law enforcement experience, leadership, and dedication to serving the citizens of Morehead.

Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to public safety, community engagement, and building positive relationships throughout our city.

The City of More-



Photos courtesy of Morehead Police Department Facebook page Mayor Laura White- Brown swearing in Lieutenant Eric Plank

head is excited for this new chapter and looks forward to Chief Ison's leadership as he guides the Morehead Police Department into the future while continuing its mission to protect and serve

our community.

Congratulations to Chief Ison, Captain Howard and Lieutenant Plank and thank you for your commitment to keeping Morehead safe and strong.

School Board approves tax rates

By Michael A. Clary
KyNewsGroup
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Members of the Rowan County Board of Education, including Superintendent Michael Rowe, met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting, on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026, at 6:00pm, which was broadcast live on the Rowan Schools YouTube page.

The meeting was called to order with attendance; the Pledge of Allegiance; recognition of visitors and guests; approval of the regular business items; approval of the minutes from the previous month's regularly scheduled meeting held on July 21, 2026; and approval of the payment of monthly claims.

The board approved the

consent agenda, which included approval of medical and maternity leave - Aug. 10, 2026 - Oct. 9, 2026; approval of the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) with Community Work Transition Program for the 2026-2027 school year; approval of the Emergency Certification for 1 elementary, 1 middle, and 1 high school teacher; approval of the School Resource Officer Program MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Rowan County Sheriff's Department for the 2026-2027 school year; approval of a leave of absence for an employee; approve of Rowan Elementary School sur-

School Board
cont. on pg. 2

UK St. Claire major force behind Rowan County's growth

By Cecil Lawson
KyNewsGroup
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Over the past few years, Rowan County has witnessed the phenomenal growth of UK St. Claire Health following the hospital's merger with the University of Kentucky in 2023.

Last Thursday, the hospital's top administrators shared some hard numbers at the Morehead/Rowan County Chamber of Commerce's monthly membership luncheon held at the Morehead Conference Center.

Speakers included were President and CEO, Donald Lloyd II, and Vice-President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Chris McClurg.

Lloyd said when St. Claire became part of the University of Kentucky,

there were three goals, to create access for everyone, to elevate the quality of care, and to make economic investment in the region.

McClurg said the hospital has added 50 new physicians, and it has

had nearly 60,000 emergency room visits annually, amounting to a 10 percent annual growth from 2023 to 2026.

Lloyd said investments include \$65.1 million spent through June 2026, \$40 million on informa-

tion technology improvements including Blue Connect and MyChart, \$6.4 million to the Rowan County Board of Edu-

UK St. Claire
cont. on pg. 2

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