## Dixon, Bowling Inducted as Honorary Troop Members



### Photos Submitted

#### STAFF REPORT

Two local leaders were inducted as honorary members to local Girl Scouts Troop 2309 for their contributions to the organization.

Keith Bowling, a ranger and Park Manager for the Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site, and Marcia Dixon, Barbourville Tourism Director, were honored for their willingness to support the troop and to help the girls grow and learn in skills and new experiences.

They were inducted Saturday morning during the Cumberland River Run canoe and kayak event, sponsored by Barbourville Tourism and Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site.



"Keith and Marcia both are just such a wealth of help and resources to our troop," said troop leader Stephanie Lewis, "and we greatly appreciate both of them for their contributions."



# Headed to State



### Knox School Board Approves New Software, ParentSquare, for School, Family Communications as New State Law Takes Effect

SUBMITTED BY FRANK SHELTON KCPS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

With the official start of summer and graduations behind them, the Knox County Board of Education was busy planning for the next school year during their June 19 meeting.

Jerry Vaughn, pastor at Parkway Baptist Church, opened the meeting with a moment of silence. Ledford thanked him afterward, mentioning how he is active in getting roads cleared during winter weather. Vaughn, jokingly, shared that "this year's winter is going to be worse."

When the meeting was called to order, most action items focused on programs, services, and vendors that the district will use when school resumes on August 6.

Local vendors who placed bids for supplies and services were awarded, with most categories receiving approval for any and all bids. In some categories, the Board approved specific vendors, including Alarm Tech Fire and Security, UPIC Labs for district drug testing and Royal Treatment for drug screenings and testing, and Southeast Pest Control.

The Board approved the reading of policies and procedures, most of which were a result of the last state legislative session or federal guidelines. Handbooks were also approved, which, when asked later about changes, "the handbooks themselves have no local policy changes, only those that we are required to adopt," said Frank Shelton, communications director.

Shelton continued to say that the action on a traceable communication system, a service that was awarded to ParentSquare, was the result of state law. "Senate Bill 181 states that the school district must have one and two-way communication monitoring, tracing any texts, phone calls, file transfers, among staff and students," said Shelton. He stated that families would receive more information as school starts and student athletes participating in summer practice would be the first to utilize the system when it goes live.

A preschool teacher position was created for Lay Elementary and an

LBD teacher at Lynn Camp, both due to anticipated enrollment. The number of summer school staff positions needed was approved. A maintenance substitute position was created with the salary set by certification.

Agreements with Infinite Campus and Tyler Technologies, all of which are state required software platforms, were approved for the district's portion of operational costs. Membership with the Southeast South-Central educational cooperation, Structured IT for telephone system services, and Lite the Nite to assist with federal technology funding services were all renewed for the upcoming year.

Insurance and student athletic trainers were among additional items that the Board approved in preparation for the new year.

The district's career programs were discussed, including an agreement with the Labor Cabinet for a community work transition program.

"The primary goal of this program and all services provided is to improve the transition of students with disabilities into competitive integrated employment prior to high school exit," explained Superintendent Jeremy Ledford.

"Program goals are to provide exposure and experiences in career and employment opportunities in order to improve transition into postsecondary education and training."

The funding for the district's career and technology center was also approved, with the funds allocated toward salary and other reasonable costs for local control of the center.

A software program, Transfr Trek, which provides students with career exploration opportunities, was approved for the district's JAG programs.

The meeting ended with the Board going into closed session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation for the past year. After returning from closed session, a motion was made to rate Superintendent Ledford exemplary in all standards of leadership.

Minutes of the June meeting, including all items on which action was taken, will be included in the consent agenda for their July 17 meeting.



Photos by Ashley Graggs

The Knox County Little League All-Stars 11 & 12 have advanced to the final four following their win against Harlan for the championship. Great job! Coaches: Billy Taylor, Matthew Cox, Cody Graggs



### INSPECTION PERIOD FOR THE 2025 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL

The Knox County real property tax roll will be opened for inspection from July 7 - July 21 under the supervision of the PVA or one of the deputies. During this time any person may inspect the tax roll.

This is the January 1, 2025 assessment on which state, county, and school taxes will be based.

The tax roll may be inspected between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday and on Saturdays, July 12 and July 19, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM.

Any taxpayer desiring to appeal an assessment on real property made by the PVA must first request a conference with the PVA or a designated deputy. The conference may be held prior to or during the inspection period.

Any taxpayer still aggrieved by an assessment on real property after the conference with the PVA or designated deputy may appeal to the county board of assessment appeals.

The taxpayer can appeal his assessment by filing in person or sending a letter or other written petition stating the reasons for appeal, identifying the property, and stating the taxpayer's opinion of the fair cash value of the property.

The appeal must be filed with the county clerk's office no later than one workday following the conclusion of the inspection period.

Any taxpayer failing to appeal to the county board of assessment appeals, or failing to appear before the board, either in person or by designated representative, will not be eligible to appeal directly to the Kentucky Board of Appeals.

Appeals of personal property assessments shall not be made to the county board of assessment appeals. Personal property taxpayers shall be served notice under the provisions of KRS 132.450(4) and shall have the protest and appeal rights granted under the provisions of KRS 131.110.

The following steps should be taken when a taxpayer does not agree with the assessed value of personal property as determined by the office of property valuation administrator.

- He must list under protest (for certification) what he believes to be the fair cash value of his property.
- He must file a written protest directly with the Department of Property Valuation within 30 days from the date of the notice of assessment.
- This protest must be in accordance with KRS 131.110.

The final decision of the Revenue Cabinet may be appealed to the Kentucky Claims

Commission.

Bob Blevins Knox County PVA