

The Center for Rural Development announces 2025 Rogers Scholars

The Center for Rural Development announces 104 students have been selected for 2025 Rogers Scholars. The Rogers Scholars program has been described as “an experience of a lifetime,” and 104 high school students from 45 Kentucky counties will have an opportunity to be a part of that experience this summer.

Students from Southern and Eastern Kentucky – all rising high school juniors - have been selected by The Center for Rural Development to represent their home county as 2025 Rogers Scholars.

“Congratulations to our newest class of Rogers Scholars,” said Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center for Rural Development. “We are excited to announce this year’s Rogers Scholars and cannot wait to meet this amazing group of students. They truly are our region’s future leaders, filled with innovative and creative ideas, and ready to take on the world.”

Students accepted into the 2025 Rogers Scholars youth leadership program for Lee and Owsley Counties are:

Billi Brandenburg
– Lee County

Olivia Flinchum
– Lee County

Taylor “Kenzie” Grubb
– Owsley County

Noah Shouse
– Owsley County

The 2025 Rogers Scholars program will be held on the campuses of Morehead State University (June 15-20) and Lindsey Wilson College (July 13-18). The program provides leadership and scholarship opportunities for high school students within The Center’s 45-county primary service area to develop their skills as the region’s next generation of business and entrepreneurial leaders.

For more information about Rogers Scholars, please call 606-677-6000, visit www.centertech.com, or email youth@centertech.com.

Established in 1996 through the vision of U.S. Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers, (KY-05), and other leaders, The Center for Rural Development is a nonprofit organization fueled by a mission to provide leadership that stimulates innovative and sustainable economic development solutions and a better way of life in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. In its 45-county primary service region, The Center provides innovative programs in leadership, public safety, technology, and arts and culture. The Center is committed to constantly expanding its capabilities in order to deliver a range of key services throughout Kentucky and the nation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Increasing accountability and equity in local road appropriations

Every two years, Kentucky lawmakers approve a road plan that includes funding for infrastructure projects throughout the state. For almost a decade, this plan has been developed using the Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow (SHIFT) program. This is a data-driven approach to prioritizing projects and determining funding in a way that ensures road projects are selected based on objective criteria rather than political influence.

In addition to the state plan, local governments also address road maintenance, repair, and construction in their budgets. These projects are primarily funded through a combination of state, federal, and local sources. For decades, the state’s funding of local roadwork has operated with little oversight, often influenced by political considerations rather than true infrastructure needs. Without clear guidelines or assessments, funding decisions lacked transparency and fairness, leaving some communities with better-maintained roads while others struggled with crumbling infrastructure. Lawmakers took steps to change that during the 2024 Regular Session, and further built on those efforts this year with the passage of two key legislative measures, HB 546 and HJR 46.

HB 546 is a significant step toward creating a structured, needs-based approach to funding local road projects. The bill creates the Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) with specific guidelines that the Department of Rural and Municipal Roads must follow when submitting projects for funding consideration. Instead of funding decisions being made without clear criteria, HB 546 ensures that proposed projects meet objective eligibility standards that includes local participation before reaching the legislature. This change helps remove political favoritism and ensures that taxpayer dollars are directed toward the communities that need them most.

HJR 46 takes the commitment to accountability a step further by focusing funding set aside for local roads during the 2024 budget process on the most hazardous roads in Kentucky. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) evaluated local road projects across the state, ranking them on a severity scale from one to ten, with ten representing the most dangerous conditions. Under HJR 46, only projects ranked at the highest level of urgency, those ranked ten, receive funding.

This approach is a significant shift from past practices, where funding could be distributed based on political considerations rather than immediate safety concerns. By directing \$23.8 million to 145 critical road maintenance projects, HJR 46 ensures that the state’s most hazardous roads are repaired first, reducing risks for drivers, improving infrastructure equity, and ensuring that resources are allocated based on need rather than influence.

These two measures represent a major change in how Kentucky funds local road projects. Instead of a system driven by politics, the state is embracing a data-driven, needs-based approach that prioritizes safety and efficiency. By ensuring that projects are assessed, ranked, and funded based on clear criteria, HB 546 and HJR 46 promote transparency and help restore public trust in the process.

Well-maintained roads are not just a matter of convenience they are essential for economic growth, public safety, and community well-being. By adopting an impartial and more responsible funding model, Kentucky is paving the way for stronger, safer, and more connected communities.

Roads are the backbone of Kentucky’s economy and quality of life. Whether it’s farmers, transporting goods, businesses receiving supplies, or families commuting to work and school, every Kentuckian relies on a safe and well-maintained road system.

Kentucky is home to major industries, including agriculture and manufacturing. Strong, reliable roads keep businesses moving, attract investment, and create jobs. Companies are more likely to invest in a state with well-maintained infrastructure, while poor road conditions can drive businesses away and increase transportation costs.

Additionally, rural and urban connectivity is essential for the state’s prosperity. Many Kentuckians live in rural areas and depend on quality roads for access healthcare and education. Investing in road maintenance ensures that no community is left behind.

Poor road conditions are more than an inconvenience, they are a safety hazard. Pot-holes, deteriorating bridges, and crumbling pavement increase the risk of accidents and vehicle damage. Maintaining roads reduces collisions, improves emergency response times, and protects drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Legislation like HJR 46, which prioritizes the most hazardous road projects, is a step toward making Kentucky’s roads safer. By investing in repairs now, the state can prevent costly and dangerous conditions in the future. When roads are neglected, small issues turn into expensive maintenance projects. A proactive approach saves taxpayer dollars and ensures roads remain safe and functional for years to come.

By prioritizing infrastructure funding and adopting data-driven policies like HB 546 and HJR 46, the Commonwealth is ensuring that resources are allocated where they are needed most. Investing in quality roads is not just a government responsibility, it’s a commitment to a stronger, safer, and more prosperous Kentucky. Our district will not be neglected.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Bill.Wesley@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature’s website at legislature.ky.gov.

By:
State Representative
Bill Wesley

ABSOLUTE ESTATE Auction



ABSOLUTE LIVE ESTATE AUCTION
THE LATE PEGGY GENTRY'S
BRICK HOUSE & 7.16 ACRES M/L & BARN
PERSONAL PROPERTY
SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH @ 10:30 A.M.
629 PRYSE RD., BOONEVILLE, KY

DIRECTIONS: Turn off Hwy 30 at auction sign near Booneville and proceed 1.5 miles to the auction site.

This nice brick house has a living room, eat-in kitchen, 3 bedrooms and 1.5 baths. It has a nice porch with ramp, electric baseboard and propane heat, combination of hardwood laminate, carpet & vinyl flooring, shingle roof, washer & dryer hookup and much more. In addition to the house, there is a barn with concrete floor and electric.

Personal Property includes:
 Portable carport ~ GE refrigerator with bottom freezer ~ 7 piece oak dinette set, oak China cabinet ~ oak washstand ~ porcelain China set ~ oak curio cabinet ~ crock churn ~ wood churn ~ leather electric recliner ~ couch ~ quilts ~ lift chair ~ cedar lined wardrobe ~ white electric sewing machine ~ Whirlpool auto washer ~ Speed Queen dryer ~ cedar chest ~ metal bed ~ queen size Amish built bed ~ dresser ~ chest of drawers ~ kerosene lamp ~ jewelry cabinet ~ televisions ~ Amish made porch furniture ~ pots & pans ~ large collection of glassware ~ John Deere yard trailer ~ garden tools ~ power tools including Craftsman sander, Craftsman 9" 1/3 hp. band saw, table saw ~ ladders ~ wheelbarrow ~ portable generator ~ Champion 16 gauge shotgun ~ Connecticut Valley black powder gun ~ 12 gauge shotgun ~ Volunteer Arms 12 gauge shotgun plus much more.

PREVIEW: Friday, April 18th & 25th from 2-6 p.m.

NOTE: The purchaser of a single-family residence built before 1978 has a maximum of 10 days to inspect the property of lead-based paint. The period for inspections begins April 16th through April 25th. The successful bidder must sign a waiver of the 10-day inspection period.

AUCTION PREMIUM: A 10% Auction Premium will be added to the winning bid to determine the final sale price.

TERMS: Real Estate- 20% down due day of sale, with balance in 30 days with deed. Personal Property- Payment in full due day of sale in the form of cash, check, Visa or MasterCard with an additional 4% processing fee.

Auctioneer/Broker/Seller Disclaimer: The information contained herein is believed to be correct to the best of the auctioneer's knowledge. The information is being provided for the bidder's convenience and it is the bidder's responsibility to determine the information contained herein is accurate and complete. The property is being sold in its 'as-is' condition with no warranties expressed or implied.



Danny Ford, Auctioneer



AUCTIONEER: DANNY FORD

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Mt. Vernon, KY

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Lee County Spring Premier Class A Rocky Mountain Horse Show

Benefit Show For Our Local Youth

May 3rd, 2025 @ 3:00 PM Location: 3 Mile Rd. Beattyville, Ky 41311

Admission \$5.00 Per Person 12 Years & Under-Free

Lead Line-Free Entry Fee but Please Register @ Registration Booth - Prizes for Everyone

- 1.RMHA 17 & Under Trail Pleasure
- 2.RMHA Mares & Geldings Country Trail Pleasure
- 3.RMHA Amateur Show Pleasure
- 4.RMHA 3 YO Country Trail Pleasure
- 5.RMHA 17 & Under Show Pleasure
6. RMHA Stallions Country Trail Pleasure
- 7.RMHA Mares & Geldings Show Pleasure
- 8.RMHA Amateur Country Trail Pleasure
9. RMHA Ladies Trail Pleasure
- 10.RMHA AOT Show Pleasure
- 11.RMHA Mens Trail Pleasure
12. RMHA Adult Western Pleasure

INTERMISSION

- 13.RMHA Mens Country Trail Pleasure
- 14.RMHA 3 YO Show Pleasure
- 15.RMHA Amateur Trail Pleasure
- 16.RMHA Stallions Show Pleasure
- 17.RMHA AOT Country Trail Pleasure
- 18.RMHA Mares & Geldings Trail Pleasure
- 19.RMHA Stallions Trail Pleasure
- 20.RMHA 17 & Under Country Trail Pleasure
- 21.RMHA 3 YO Trail Pleasure
- 22.RMHA Ladies Show Pleasure
- 23.RMHA AOT Trail Pleasure
- 24.RMHA Ladies Country Trail Pleasure
- 25.RMHA Mens Show Pleasure

CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 26.RMHA 17 & Under Trail Pleasure Championship
- 27.RMHA Country Trail Pleasure Championship
- 28.RMHA 17 & Under Show Pleasure Championship
29. RMHA Trail Pleasure Championship
- 30.RMHA 17 & Under Country Trail Pleasure Championship
- 31.RMHA Show Pleasure Championship

ENTRY FEES: 1-25 \$25.00 PAYBACKS CLASSES 1-25 \$25,\$15,\$10

ENTRY FEES: 26-31 \$35.00 PAYBACKS CLASSES 26-31 \$35,\$25,\$15

MUST BE 4 OR MORE ENTRIES OR PAYBACKS WILL START AT 2ND PLACE

DOP FEE: \$15.00 PER HORSE



7th ANNUAL 2025 JOB FAIR

TUESDAY, APRIL 29TH

11:00am – 5:00pm

BHS Gym
2307 Bobcat Lane
Jackson, KY 41339

Parking available to the right of the school

For More Information:
SFC Darren Iacono 304-730-0626

<https://www.facebook.com/BreathittCountySchools>

Hosted by JROTC and Breathitt County High School

Must Have I.D. Available to Enter

MULTIPLE employers are expected to attend industries including:

- Manufacturing
- Healthcare
- Retail
- Food Industries
- Customer Service

Auction-Online

Call Maxine Turner

606-560-9363

Thompson Real Estate & Auction LLC

