

CANCELED

FROM PAGE B1

Casey County shot 46.4% (13-of-28) from the field. The Rebels excelled beyond the arc, shooting 62.5% from three-point range.

Casey County connected on one of five free throw attempts.

Ben Gossage paced Casey County, scoring a team-high 12 points for the Rebels. Gossage was the only Casey County player to reach double figures.

Narrowly missing double figures for Casey County, Carson Beeler netted nine points.

Six players supplied scoring for the Rebels. The additional scorers for Casey County were Ethan Hamm (six points), Evan Collins (five points), Jackson Knight (three points) and Brayden Luster (two points).

Schaller paced Casey County inside, claiming eight rebounds.

Casey County 36, Burgin 49: Casey County was unable to battle back from behind as Burgin prevailed 49-36 in a late-season boys' high school basketball game on Monday, Feb. 17.

The Rebels dropped to 3-23 after absorbing the loss.

Burgin shot 46.3% (19-of-41) from the field. The Bulldogs shot 46.2% (six-of-13) from three-point range.

Burgin, which benefitted from a balanced offensive attack, shot 71.4% (five-of-seven) from the free throw line.

Landen Sexton led Burgin to the win. Sexton scored a game-high 12 points for the Bulldogs.

Along with Sexton's game-high effort for Burgin, Phil

lip Dodson scored 11 points while JT Boswell and Hudson Taylor netted 10 points apiece.

Rounding out Burgin's scoring, Brayden Pittman and Jase Thompson each added three points.

Casey County shot 40% (14-of-45) from the field. The Rebels shot 33.3% (five-of-15) from three-point range.

Casey County connected on three of eight free throw attempts.

Ethan Hamm paced Casey County, scoring a team-best 11 points for the Rebels.

Accompanying Hamm in double figures for Casey County, Carson Beeler netted 10 points.

Accounting for Casey County's additional scoring, Jayson Schaller posted nine points and Evan Collins put in six points.

Schaller nearly recorded a double-double for Casey County, claiming 10 rebounds.

The Casey County-McCreary Central boys' basketball game scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 18 was canceled.

Casey County was slated to host McCreary Central for a late-season boys' high school basketball game.

The Casey County-McCreary Central game was canceled due to the weather.

The game between Casey County and McCreary Central wasn't rescheduled due to the matchup being slated for the final week of the 2024-25 boys' high school basketball regular season.

The Rebels also played Louisville Collegiat on Saturday, Feb. 22, and lost the game 53-63 to close out the regular season. Details from that game will be in next week's issue of the paper.

Passage of HB 368 will harm communities and newspapers

BY JANE ASHLEY PACE

Every county in Kentucky has one local business that has been there longer than any other, most more than a century — while some are even closing in on two centuries.

In many of these counties, that business is the local newspaper.

I manage two of those local newspapers. The Oldham Era which is looking forward to celebrating our 150th anniversary next year. The Henry County Local has been publishing 168 proud years and counting. I also assist regionally with 13 other area newspapers with similar tenures.

Newspapers are the heartbeat of every community in Kentucky. We exist to inform, to raise awareness, to build community, to be the voice of those that can't always speak for themselves, to cover local government and hold local officials accountable, to help local businesses grow, to enact change, to celebrate achievements and to archive our community's history.

Our founding fathers felt so strongly about the importance of newspapers and the role we play in communities that we are the only profession explicitly named in the Constitution of the United States of America.

There are three ways in which newspapers have effectively carried out some of our most important roles — covering local government, keeping officials accountable, keeping citizens informed and helping transparency exist: public notices, open meetings and open records.

Without these three in place, knowing how your tax dollars are being spent, what bids are available and being rewarded, what decisions your elected officials are making for you, when meetings are being held and what new ordinances are being considered would not be as easily accessible.

There is currently a bill, HB368, that seeks to remove legal notices

from newspapers and place them on government websites. Websites that are run by the government themselves. What could go possibly go wrong with that?

When a legal ad is placed in a newspaper, it is placed in the local newspaper, dated and cannot be changed after the fact. In addition, it is placed on a website managed by the Kentucky Press Association where all legal notices in Kentucky can be found easily — kypublicnotices.com.

HB368 seeks to have entities including county and city governments place public notices on their own websites. Yet many have only one employee, if any, and can't even keep their current websites updated. I found one city website in my area that hadn't been updated with meetings or ordinances since 2020. Two others had very little information, none of the council members listed were current and the monthly meeting time was wrong.

Officials have said they would create their own statewide website for all notices. I would argue they are going to spend a lot more money creating a website we already have created and maintained successfully. Right now, paid legal notices are a very small part of county and city budgets — only 0.16%.

So why change? Is this what is really best for the community?

In counties of 80,000 or more a bill was passed in Kentucky to change the rules of public notices due to the cost of the larger newspapers. Yet, many of those counties, including Boone, Campbell, Fayette, Kenton, Madison and Warren, have decided that newspapers are still the best way to get their notices out and have continued to place them in newspapers despite the change.

Regardless of the county size, public notices should be posted by a third party, and with a newspaper in almost every county (and statewide website already in place) it just makes good, common sense.

Besides the concerns I've already addressed, while legal notices are not the only revenue that keep newspapers going — it is a part of it, and some smaller, rural counties could lose their local newspaper if this bill is passed.

A community without a local newspaper is a community without a heartbeat, and countless studies have shown in news desserts across this country that there will be negative, long-term effects for the community.

No, it is not the job of the legislature to keep newspapers running but why are they so against doing something that maintains transparency and at the same time, would hurt some of the oldest local businesses in this state?

I'm not blind to the criticism of the media. I was trained that a journalist is to cover the facts and to try and keep any biases out. I think your local newspapers do a pretty darn good job at still doing that. We have editorial pages that are open for opinions to be shared and topics to be discussed but they are clearly labeled and kept separate from the news content.

Your local newspaper employees are not pushing an agenda. We are actively involved and serving in our communities. We live, work, play and volunteer right alongside our community members. We take our role very seriously and that includes publishing public notices.

Any bill that seeks to change how public notices are handled or diminishes public meetings or public records, is going to be harmful to the community, and your local newspaper, in the long run. I urge you to stand up with your local newspaper and help us keep these three in place.

Jane Ashley Pace, a Campbellsville native, is publisher of the Oldham Era and Henry County Local, a regional advertising manager for Paxton Media and the 2024 president of the Kentucky Press Association.

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