

House passes Heavrin bill to support students with dyslexia

The state House of Representatives has passed House Bill (HB) 272 94-0. This measure, sponsored by Rep. Samara Heavrin, R-Leitchfield, would strengthen support for students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, and other



Samara Heavrin

culties. “Every student deserves the support they need to succeed in school,” Heavrin said. “Students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, and similar reading and writing difficulties face unique chal-

lenges in the classroom. HB 272 will prepare our school districts and our teachers to support these students and allow dyslexic students to succeed beyond their expectations.” HB 272 would require school districts to develop a policy for programs to identify and support students with dyslexia.

Additionally, the Department of Education would be required to review and update the dyslexia toolkit annually, and teacher education programs would be required to include instruction on dyslexia. “We are committed to improving the way we educate our students and moving them into profi-

ciency in reading and writing,” Heavrin said. “One in five students have dyslexia, and the reading disorder is often underdiagnosed. This legislation will ensure that those students diagnosed or displaying signs of dyslexia, dysgraphia, or other reading and writing difficulties receive the classroom support they

need to learn to read and write at grade level.” This measure will move to the Senate for further consideration. For more information on HB 272, go to legislature.ky.gov or visit apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/25RS/HB272.html.

— Submitted

CASA of the Heartland hosts community luncheon

On Tuesday, CASA of the Heartland hosted its second annual community appreciation luncheon as a way to thank donors, volunteers and Friends of CASA who supported CASA in the previous year. CASA also encouraged continued participation and announced upcoming plans for 2025. “We rely on community support to serve the children in our community — we couldn’t do our work without it,” said CASA of the Heartland Executive Director Michelle Kail. “So our hope through this event is that our supporters leave knowing how valued they are and are motivated to continue supporting CASA this year.” During the event, CASA of the Heartland highlighted their successes from 2024 and gave credit to their donors, volunteers and Friends of CASA. In 2024, CASA of the Heartland expanded to serve a five-county region and served a total of 265 children with 98 volunteers. CASA volunteers advocate for children navigating the Family Court System due to dependency, abuse, or neglect and are singularly focused on the well-being of the child for whom they advocate.



Courtesy photo

CASA of the Heartland staff recently expanded from five to nine full-time staff members following the expansion to serve Hardin, LaRue, Meade, Breckinridge, and Grayson counties. “Our CASA volunteers are doing such important work in our communities,” said Beth Avey, board chair for CASA of the Heartland. “We want everyone involved with CASA to know that, while they may not be able to see the children they are helping, their support allows our volunteers to continue making a positive impact in the lives of children and families

across our region.” CASA of the Heartland is continuously seeking dedicated volunteers to serve children, as well as community partnerships to support its mission. To learn more about CASA of the Heartland and how to help, visit casaheartland.org.

— Submitted

EKU announces Dean’s List, Dean’s Award, and President’s Award recipients

Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) has announced the recipients of the Dean’s List, Dean’s Award, and President’s Award for the Fall 2024 semester. “Academic excellence is more than just a personal achievement; it is a commitment to building a better future for our communities through higher education,” said EKU President David McFaddin. “At EKU, we take great pride in being the School of Opportunity, equipping students with the knowledge and skills to lead in the workforce. We continue to fulfill our mission of preparing the next generation of leaders who will drive innovation and progress across the Commonwealth and beyond.” To achieve Dean’s List honors, students attempting 12 credit hours must earn a minimum 3.75 GPA; students attempting 13 credit

hours must earn a minimum 3.65 GPA; and students attempting 14 or more credit hours must earn a minimum 3.5 GPA. All grade point averages are out of a possible 4.0. Dean’s Award recipients are students who have achieved the Dean’s List three times. A lapel pin is presented to Dean’s Award students by the dean of their academic college. The President’s Award was established to recognize outstanding academic achievement, bestowed upon full-time undergraduate students who attain a 4.0 GPA for the semester. This award represents the highest undergraduate recognition of academic achievement for a semester at EKU. **FALL 2024 DEAN’S LIST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE** Brandi Elizabeth Hill, of Clark-

son, majoring in Management; Sydney A. Lindsey, of Leitchfield, majoring in Chemistry; Sam G. Wendt, of Big Clifty, majoring in Elementary Education Teaching; and Mia T. Whitfill, of Caneyville, majoring in Environmental & Appl. Geology. **FALL 2024 PRESIDENT’S AWARD RECIPIENTS INCLUDE** Brandi Elizabeth Hill, of Clarkson, majoring in Management; and Sam G. Wendt, of Big Clifty, majoring in Elementary Education Teaching. As of Fall 2024, EKU holds a 77% retention rate. The university’s top-enrolled academic programs include psychology, criminal justice, elementary education, social work, aviation, business, and nursing. **— Submitted**

26 graduate from Public Safety Dispatch Academy Class 162

On Feb. 21, Gov. Andy Beshear and the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) announced that 26 dispatchers from across the state graduated from the Public Safety Dispatch Academy and are now ready to begin answering the call to aid both citizens and law enforcement officers of the commonwealth. “You have answered a noble call, one that is of vital importance to keeping Kentuckians safe,” Beshear said. “You are a lifeline to Kentuckians in some of their darkest, scariest, toughest times, and for that, you are heroes.” Dispatch basic training is mandatory for any sworn or civilian employee who will dispatch law enforcement officers by radio at a Criminal Justice Information Systems agency. Graduates of the academy have successfully completed a highly structured and comprehensive curriculum to satisfy mandated training requirements. Over four weeks, the graduates of Class 162

received 164 hours of academy instruction to satisfy these requirements. Major training areas included identifying the role and responsibilities of the dispatcher, correct phone and radio procedures, handling emergency and nonemergency calls for service, using emergency medical dispatch protocols, and using the state and national criminal databases. “You have put yourself through intense training these past weeks in the name of keeping your communities safe, and for that, you have the admiration of myself and all of Team Kentucky,” DOCJT Commissioner Mike Bosse said. “These four weeks have laid a solid foundation for a rewarding career, and I wish you the best of luck in the years to come.” DOCJT is a state agency located on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. The agency is the first in the nation to be accredited under the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies’ public

safety training program designation. **Class 162 graduates and their agencies are:** Gale D. Adams, Boyd County PSCC 911; Karolina J. Boren, Warren County Sheriff’s Office; Gracie E. Clark, Greenup County E-911; Cortney D. Clemons, Perry County E-911; Jeremy W. Cropper, Campbellsville Police Department; Molly A. Geary, Grayson County 911; Mollie J. Gerteisen, Owensboro-Daviess County Central Dispatch; Andrew Greer, Lexington Enhanced 911; Hailey Nicole Guest, Bluegrass 911 Central Communications; Austin M. Hemlock Duty, Greenup County E-911; Brooklyn Hurt, Hazard Police Department; Matt Christopher Mattingly, Lebanon Police Department; Kierra Star Owens, Scottsville Police Department; Gabriel D. Priddy, Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office; Sean T. Queen, Bracken County 911

Mark A. Rudy, Murray Police Department; Lariesa Samson, Grayson County 911; Daniel J. Semeraro, Boyd County PSCC 911; Timothy D. Smedley, West Liberty Police Department; Brian A. Smith, Lebanon Police Department; Emily M. Strozyk, Corbin Police Department; Kevin E. Thomas, Boyd County PSCC 911; Morgan Shay Thompson, Frankfort Police Department; Matthew A. Tye, Whitley County 911; Katherine A. Wells, Powell County 911; Britney M. Zachary, Frankfort Police Department. DOCJT provides basic training for city and county police officers, sheriffs’ deputies, university police and airport police throughout the state, only excluding Louisville Metro Police Department, Lexington Police Department, Bowling Green Police Department, Owensboro Police Department and the Kentucky State Police, which each have independent academies. **— Submitted**

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FROM PAGE A1

local level by professionals who have local experience and local knowledge of our communities;” and the city “strongly believes that mandated state or third party collection of local occupational license taxes and fees would be detrimental, ineffective, and would have a severely adverse effect on the fiscal condition and economic development of Caneyville and all local government entities if mandated by the General

Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.” **In other business, the city commission:** • Voted to purchase two mini-split units for the Purple Flash Commerce and Local Knowledge Center at the cost of \$5,500 to get heating and air conditioning for those interested in renting space in the building. • Voted to allow up to \$1,000 to be used to repair a leak in the community center. • Approved the purchase of a used rescue boat for the Caneyville Fire Department for \$3,000 from Tim Brooks.

KICKS

FROM PAGE A1

with kids that many are missing coping skills, “and these programs focus more on that.” Rusher and Butler said the response to the program has been positive so far, with more community members and educators’ seeking to become trained to teach the curriculum and students’ being engaged with the lessons. “These kids are seeking knowledge,” Rusher said. “... These kids need that knowledge, and they want it, and they ask you stuff.” Officials hope to expand the program to, at least, kindergarten through eighth grade

to provide consistent messaging to students throughout their formative years; however, the goal is to eventually have someone to teach these classes in all Grayson County schools. Butler and Rusher commended Grayson County Sheriff Norman Chaffins for his efforts to educate Grayson County’s youth about drugs, and said they want to add to the programs already in place. “The average prospect needs to hear a message seven times before they take action,” Butler said. “We just want to be one of those seven.” For more information about the Too Good for Drugs program and its curriculum, call the GCHD at 270-259-3141.

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EDITOR
Matt Lasley, mlasley@graysonconews.com

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES
Tracey Collins, tcollins@graysonconews.com
Nancy Farmer, nfarmer@thenewsenrprise.com

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LEGAL NOTICE
The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

In accordance with KRS 176.051, Kentucky’s noxious weed law, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will control noxious weeds on state-owned right of way at the request of the adjoining property owner. The noxious weeds named in this law are Johnson grass (Sorghum halepense), Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense), Cutleaf Teasel (Dipsacus laciniatus) Nodding thistle (Carduus nutans), Common teasel (Dipsacus fullonum), Poison hemlock (Conium maculatum), Marestail (Conyza canadensis), Amur Honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii), Multiflora Rose (Rose multiflora) Japanese knotweed, (Polygonum cuspidatum), Spotted Knapweed (Centaurea stoebe) and Kudzu (Pueraria montana).

Persons who own property adjacent to state right of way and who are involved in eradication efforts on their property can submit a written application to the highway district office in their area. Contact information can be found at transportation.ky.gov/DistrictPages