

GRAYSON COUNTY NEWS



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GRAYSON COUNTY'S FULL-COVERAGE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Leitchfield considers raising local tax rates

BY MATT LASLEY
GRAYSON COUNTY NEWS

The Leitchfield City Council on Monday voted to set this year's property tax rates and held the first of two readings of the 2025 tax ordinance.

Leitchfield Finance Officer Sabrina Roof presented the proposed rates to the council and said the assessed value of real property in Leitchfield in 2024 was \$335,384,453, and, for personal property, it was \$80,224,165.

For 2025, real property values increased to \$349,940,552, and personal property values also increased to \$83,019,647.

The 2024 real property tax rate was 16.9 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and produced revenue of \$566,800.

Roof presented two real property tax rate options for 2025: The rate

leading to a 4% increase in revenue, which would have been 18.6 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, generating revenue of \$650,889; and the compensating rate, which was selected and will be 17.9 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, generating revenue of \$626,394.

The 2024 personal property rate was 25.46 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and produced revenue of \$204,251.

Roof then presented two options for the 2025 personal property tax rate: The rate leading to a 4% increase in revenue, which would have been 28.25 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, generating revenue of \$234,531; and the compensating rate, which was also selected and will be 27.19 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, generating revenue of \$225,730.

The 2024 motor vehicle tax rate

was 12 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation and generated revenue of \$41,489. The 2025 rate will also be 12 and will generate revenue of \$50,635.

"I know that the city and the budget have put a lot of big-ticket items in, trying to fix the streets and everything else," Roof said. "There's a lot of other things that we can improve on in the city, and I think that my recommendation is taking the compensating rate. I do not think that we're in a financial situation where we have to increase it 4%."

Roof said taking the compensating rates would allow Leitchfield to remain in the same financial standing, not fall behind, and continue to, in next year's budget, finance larger projects to improve the city.

Following Roof's presentation, City Councilman Billy Dallas made

a motion to accept the compensating rate, which was seconded by City Councilwoman Terri Haycraft. The motion passed on a four-to-two vote, with city councilmen Clayton Miller and Tim Bocock voting against it. "The compensating rate will go forward; I vote for it, too," said Mayor Harold Miller.

In explaining his "No" vote, Bocock noted the equity in home ownership is going down, and car dealerships are struggling.

"The American taxpayer is being squeezed," he said. "We're looking at the taxpayer — young taxpayers especially — not being able to afford housing, not being able to afford the same American dream as their parents did. And we're in a pretty good financial position as a city, and I just can't, in all honesty as a good steward, vote for a tax increase."

Clayton Miller concurred with Bocock in explaining his vote against the compensating rate.

"I agree with Tim 100%; you just beat me to it," said Clayton Miller. "I appreciate the whole council and their thoughts on it, and I know we're voted down four to two, but that's okay. I'm still against."

Haycraft requested Roof share how the increase will reflect on the average Leitchfield taxpayer's bill, and Roof said the compensating rate, on a property valued at \$50,000, would make a difference of \$5 on a resident's tax bill.

"I think we chose the compensating rate because, just like Sabrina said, we weren't in financial (shape) to take the 4% (increase in revenue)," Dallas said. "We didn't need the 4%. We offer many services in this

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Grayson County Schools Superintendent Doug Robinson, far right, addresses the start of the 2025-2026 school year during the August Board of Education meeting.

GCS kicks of school year with tech center update

BY MATT LASLEY
GRAYSON COUNTY NEWS

The Grayson County Board of Education received an update on the Grayson County Technology Center renovation and expansion project during its meeting last Thursday, Aug. 14.

Joey Clark, of ClotfelterSamokar, attended the meeting to provide a construction update on the project, which, he said, has now been under construction for six months.

According to Clark, the building has been divided into three sections, A (the new front of the building), B, and C. Foundations are in place for 100% of Area C and 75% of the new floor slab had been poured in Area C; and foundations were also in place through 20% of Area B.

Inside, new welding booths have been constructed in the welding lab, and new utilities have been installed.

Outside, site work has been done to clear the area for the new addition to the

building, as well as the new parking lot.

"We've really increased the size of what your existing building was," Clark said.

Officials have also made final selections on the exterior colors of the building.

Grayson County Schools Superintendent Doug Robinson, during the August Grayson County Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon held the same day as the school board meeting, said that, while the technology center project is slightly behind schedule due to spring weather, within the next 30 days, the public should be able to see "drastic changes" of what the newly renovated and expanded facility will look like.

In related news, the school board also approved a \$304,505.95 payment to Redlee Construction for the technology center project.

In other business, the school board:

*Approved its meeting schedule for 2025-2026. The

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76th annual Grayson County Fair is next week

BY MATT LASLEY
GRAYSON COUNTY NEWS

The 2025 Grayson County Fair officially kicks off Tuesday and will celebrate its 76th year.

The fair opens Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m., and carnival rides begin operating at 5 p.m. The gates and rides will operate on this same schedule through Thursday.

Additionally, on Tuesday evening, KOI drag racing, and the Miss Grayson County Fair and Miss & Mr. Grayson County Sunshine pageants are scheduled for 7 p.m. that evening.

The Miss Teen Grayson County Fair and Miss Pre-Teen Grayson County Fair pageants are set for Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m., with motocross scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Thursday night will see the Gut-n-Go Demolition Derby, Circle Track Racing, Mrs./Ms. Grayson County Fair Pageant, and karaoke contest preliminaries all set to begin at 7 p.m. Registration for the karaoke contest starts at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

On Friday, the fair opens at 3 p.m. with carnival rides starting at 5 p.m. The karaoke contest finals and Big Car & MWFA Demolition Derby will begin at 7 p.m.



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The 2025 Grayson County Fair begins Tuesday.

that night.

On Saturday, Aug. 30, it's an all-day affair, with the gates opening at 8 a.m. Registration for the baby pageants, as well as the Antique Tractor & Engine Show begins at 9 a.m. Carnival rides begin

operating at 11 a.m., followed by the baby pageant and arm wrestling tournament at 1 p.m. Judging for the Antique Tractor & Engine Show is set for 2 p.m., and will

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Fundraising for 10th Ducking Hunger Regatta underway

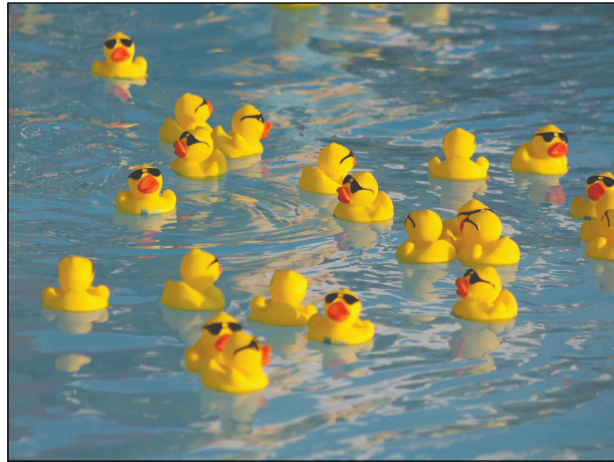
BY MATT LASLEY
GRAYSON COUNTY NEWS

The Grayson County Alliance's Ducking Hunger Regatta fundraiser is celebrating a "duckade" of giving this year.

Fundraising has begun for the 10th annual event,

which features up to 2,000 rubber ducks — each of which can be sponsored for \$5 — "racing" around the Leitchfield Aquatic Center (LAC) lazy river. The sponsor of the grand prize winning duck will win \$1,000.

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Courtesy photo

The 10th annual Ducking Hunger Regatta will be held on Labor Day again this year.

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