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Herald-Leader sports columnist John Clay is retiring

BY JON HALE jhale@herald-leader.com

One of the most prominent voices in Kentucky sports reporting over the last 40-plus

years, Lexington Herald-Leader columnist John Clay is retiring, effective June 30.

"I never wanted to be anything other than a sportswriter," Clay said. "To be able to do it where I grew up, writing about

the teams I have always followed, for my hometown newspaper, has made me luckier than I deserve. I've enjoyed every minute.'

A Central Kentucky native and University of Kentucky

graduate, Clay was inducted into the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Hall of Fame in April.

"It's one thing to be an outstanding writer but when you add the local knowledge John brought to the job, you have a combination that makes for an outstanding sports columnist, UK radio play-by-play man Tom Leach, who first worked with Clay as a student reporter at the Kentucky Kernel in 1979, said. "I think you'd be hard-pressed to find many complaints about John's fairness and professionalism as well. His longevity in a role for which Kentucky fans set the bar high is a tribute to how well he did his job.'

"John has a deep passion for

SEE CLAY, 5A



The third and final design for a six-story University of Kentucky student housing complex on East Maxwell Street in Lexington, Ky.

Developers, preservationists at odds over home near UK

BY BETH MUSGRAVE bmus grave @herald-leader.com

A lawyer for a developer of a six-story apartment complex near the University of Kentucky says a demolition permit was mistakenly pulled for a home that preservationists and neighbors thought would be saved.

Yet, it's likely the home at 245 Stone Ave. will eventually be razed to make way for a new fraternity house, said officials with Stavroff Land and Development.

The fate of the home at 245 Stone Ave. is just the latest fight in a sometimes contentious two-year battle between neighbors, the Blue Grass Trust and Stavroff Developers over the new student apartment complex on East Maxwell Street.

In December 2023, the Urban **County Planning Commission** voted to approve a zone change allowing Stavroff to build a sixstory apartment complex on East Maxwell Street between Stone Avenue and Lexington Avenue. The apartment complex will have 238 units.

During the initial development phase, Stavroff had originally proposed razing the home at 245 Stone Ave. so it could place trash compactors or dumpsters behind the the proposed apartment building. Due to concerns raised by planning commission members, that plan was ultimately scrapped and neighbors thought 245 Stone Ave. would be spared from

SEE HOME, 2A



BETH MUSGRAVE bmusgra

Developers of a multi-story student apartment complex on Maxwell Street say a demolition permit was accidentally pulled for the house at 245 Stone Avenue that preservationists want saved.

Fayette school board pauses controversial tax increase

BY VALARIE HONEYCUTT SPEARS vhoneycutt@herald-leader.com

Under threat of state audit, Fayette school board chair Tyler Murphy on Monday suggested to the superintendent and board that they "pause" raising the occupational license tax for schools.

The Fayette County school board agreed and canceled a June 23 public hearing and vote on increasing the tax.

The school board at its Monday planning meeting reached a consensus to convene a committee — a diverse, broad-cross section of people, including students and staff, community members, business leaders, faith leaders, and others — to dive into budget issues.

"There would not be any further action on revenue streams until we could gather

this group," Murphy said. The school board's May 27 vote to increase the tax had led to a threatened state audit, lawmakers' criticism, a Kentucky attorney general's opinion of unlawfulness and a public out-

Republican Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman ruled last week the school board failed to provide the legally required notice to the public before its May 27 vote to ask the fiscal court to raise the occupational license tax for schools.

According to the Coleman's opinion, the school board's 3-2 vote to ask the Fayette Fiscal Court to increase school tax rates on residents and businesses' net income from 0.5% to 0.75% was improper.

Under state law, school boards must notify the public and hold a formal hearing before voting on new or increased taxes, Coleman said.

SEE TAX, 4A

Kennedy makes 'clean sweep' of key vaccine advisory panel

BY SANDYA RAMAN CQ-Roll Call/The Tribune Content

WASHINGTON

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

announced Monday that the department will replace all members of the advisory panel responsible for providing guidance on vaccines, a move health experts say is unprecedented.

The Advisory Committee on

Immunization Practices, or

ACIP, develops recommendations for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to use vaccines to control disease in the general population. ACIP members include experts in medicine and public health, and the CDC determines its

own guidance based on ACIP's recommendations.

"A clean sweep is necessary to reestablish public confidence in vaccine science," Kennedy said in a statement, announcing he removed the 17 sitting members on the panel and will replace them with new appointees who are already under consideration.

Because the current members were appointed during the Biden administration, leaving them in place would limit the Trump administration from choosing a majority of the panel's members until 2028, he said.

"Today we are prioritizing the restoration of public trust above any specific pro- or anti-vaccine agenda," Kennedy said. "The public must know that unbiased science - evaluated through a transparent process and insulated from conflicts of interest - guides the recommendations of our health agencies."

Kennedy, in a separate Wall Street Journal op-ed announcing

SEE KENNEDY, 2A





