

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I reach out to you in an attempt to bring forth an issue I feel is being overlooked in our school district here in Shelby County- the district response to the safety of our staff and students. You recently covered the story concerning Martha Layne Collins High School and the incident regarding the two students who brought a firearm into the school.

The incident occurred on Friday, January 24, 2025, and the public was made aware via a message from Superintendent Joshua Matthews on the evening of Sunday, January 26, 2025. The message stated that there was no active threat. Furthermore, Collins teachers were advised by means of an internal newsletter on Sunday evening that the “weapon” had been confirmed to be an airsoft gun with “the orange tip removed.” This makes what happened the following day, Monday, January 27,2025, even more unsettling, as we learned that the weapon was in fact an actual firearm that the police confiscated on Monday after obtaining a warrant.

I believe there was a miscommunication that led to the schools reopening that day, as I do not believe there was any intention from the school district to place our students or staff in a harmful situation. However, we would be amiss to overlook the fact that a firearm was brought onto school grounds, remained on school property for the entire school day, and went undetected and unreported during that entire school day.

I brought this concern to Superintendent

Matthews in an email dated January 28, 2025. I asked what the plan was to increase safety moving forward, how security was going to be increased in the near- and foreseeable- future, and how quickly we will see the changes that are undeniably needed to keep everyone safe. I received a response from Matthews that same day, although it did not address some pointed questions I had outlined, nor did it involve the one thing it should have: a swift and forceful plan for safety.

The email response from the superintendent stated that the Kentucky Center for School Safety audits are received and reviewed annually “as required by law” and that “mental health [is prioritized] as a critical component of overall school safety,” and as a result, they are “actively working to increase the number of counselors available throughout the district.” Furthermore, he stated that the district will be “implementing a new security system called Audio Enhancement [...] over the next few years.” This was the extent of action being taken in response to this dire situation.

I sent a response later, in an email dated February 23, 2025, as I have used the time between that email and my follow up to get as

much information on the situation as possible. I asked the same, and new, questions in my communication back to Matthews, as many of my original questions posed were not answered. My email went unanswered for 8 days, and only after I sent a follow up did I receive a response.

In the response, Matthews confirmed that there are no plans to install metal detectors, stating that one of the “key concerns is that weapons can now be 3D-printed” and therefore, not detectable by traditional metal detectors. He stated he will be attending a conference late March with other superintendents from the country to hear more about the “emerging technologies” regarding “artificial intelligence” detection options. Again, this confirms my fear that security is not increasing in our schools any time soon.

There is no direct, quick, actionable response to the incident that occurred at Martha Layne Collins in January. The superintendent stressed that student reporting is the most effective way to mitigate threats, pointing out that the incident was reported by a student. While this has some truth to it, the unsettling reality is that the incident was reported to local law enforcement

(as confirmed by a newsletter sent to the community by Dr. Matthews on January 26, 2025) and not reported to the school. It is also important to note that the incident was not reported during the school day, while the threat was active, but rather well after the school day had ended.

I would appreciate any partnership you can offer in getting our school district to respond with a quick plan of action to the safety concerns our community has. Our teachers, staff, students, and community deserve advocates and we cannot wait to act. There must be a plan in place to react quickly and strongly now that we know a weapon has, undoubtedly, been brought into our school. We simply cannot remain complacent with our current security measures, nor can we accept responses that do not include immediate calls to action that directly address the problem we are facing.

Respectfully,
Casey Robinson

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Fast Lane Discount Tobacco Outlet Inc.
with a mailing address of **PO Box 248 Lovely KY. 41231**
hereby declares intention(s) to apply for a **NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package License(s)** no later than **March 12, 2025**
The licensed premises will be located at **225 Boone Station Road Shelbyville, KY. 40066** doing business as **Fast Lane Tobacco**
The (owner(s): Principal Officers and Directors; Limited Partners; or Members) are as follows : **President, James H. Booth of 1423 Riverfront Road Lovely, KY. 41231**
Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control Mayo-Underwood Building 500 Mero St., 2NE33 Frankfort, Ky. 40601, within 30 days of the date of this legal publication.

Mike Hedges Agricultural Lime Spreading
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502-222-5422

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LEGAL

PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to KRS 100, the Triple S Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Stratton Center, 215 Washington Street, Shelbyville, Kentucky to consider the following:

Z-487-25 & S-2006-25: An application for a Zone Change, Preliminary Subdivision Plat and Preliminary Planned Unit Development Plan by Alter Development, LLC (Applicant) and Aulbach Pence, LLC (Owner) for property located at 833 Harrington Mill Road, Shelbyville, KY from Agricultural (A) to Neighborhood Business District (C-2), Medium Density Residential District (R-3) & Multi-Family Residential District (R-4). The preliminary subdivision plat proposes 223 single-family lots on 54.08 acres. The proposed R-3 zone proposes 137 single-family lots and the proposed R-4 zone proposes 82 single-family lots. The preliminary planned unit development proposes 276 multi-family apartment units on 14.09 acres proposed to be zoned R-4 and a commercial development on 4.11 acres to be zoned C-2.

More information is on file in the Commission office, 419 Washington Street, Shelbyville, KY and may be inspected during regular office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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23						24				25		26		
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55					56		57	58	59		60			
61					62					63				
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut a little bit off
5. State with confidence
11. River in NE Scotland
14. Not narrow
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Toadstools
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Challenged
25. One-sided
27. Showing extreme greed
31. Potted plants
34. Everyone has one
35. Lake in Botswana
38. E.T. rode in one
39. Juniors' parents
41. Small amount

CLUES DOWN

1. Brushed aside
2. Water sprite
3. Ones to look up to
4. Monetary units
5. A number everyone has
6. Marine invertebrate
7. One who takes you to court
9. Parallelograms
10. Strains
11. Cross
12. A way to remove
13. Some pages are dog-__
18. Ukraine city
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Summer month (abbr.)
28. Hindu queens
29. Jewelry brand
30. Fictional rider of Rohan
31. Wet dirt

42. Mother of Perseus
44. Ornamental box
45. Gov't investigators
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. The vast grassy plains in S. America
55. Your consciousness of your own identity
56. Noted consumer advocate
60. Spanish sports club
61. Body part
62. Tractability
64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught
66. Muslim ruler title
67. Depressed
68. Gradually gave way
69. Clear-thinking

KIDS' CORNER

Food FACT:

True or false?
There is no perfect diet for everyone.

Answer: True; experimentation may be needed

NEW WORD

REFINED

with unwanted elements removed by processing

How they say that in...

English: Protein
Spanish: Proteína
Italian: Proteine
French: Protéine
German: Eiweiß

Get the PICTURE?




Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Smoothie

Did You KNOW?

A combination of various foods, with a good deal of vegetables and fruits, is part of a healthy and balanced diet.



2	9			4				
		4				5		9
	8	7			6			
1				5				6
6						7		
				8		9		
				1	4	3		5
			3		5	8		
			9			4		

Level: Advanced

SOLUTIONS

E	N	V	S		D	E	D	O	H	E		D	V	S
R	I	W	E		E	L	I	C	O	D		E	M	M
A	J	I	T	I	B	V	N	E	W	V		R	V	E
V	C	R	V	B		R	E	D	V	N	O	G	E	
S	V	A	W	V	P		N	E	L	V	E	L	V	S
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V	R	E		E	H	C	U	V	G		P	D	I	M
E	E	D		E	R	T	E	S	S	A		P	I	N

2	1	4	7	9	6	5	3	8
7	6	8	5	2	3	9	1	4
5	9	3	4	1	8	2	7	6
4	5	6	1	8	9	3	2	7
1	8	7	2	3	4	6	5	9
9	3	2	6	5	7	8	4	1
3	4	1	9	6	2	7	8	5
6	2	5	8	7	1	4	9	3
8	7	9	3	4	5	1	6	2