

Students ‘sign’ with employers during Chamber of Commerce luncheon held at Knox SKCTC campus

BY NIKKI STANLEY
Reporter

Attendees for the April 29 luncheon meeting for the Knox County Chamber of Commerce were greeted a smorgasbord of catered culinary options. The meeting took place at a different venue than most months. The April meeting was held on the campus of the Knox Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College.

Following a welcome by Chamber President Charles Lovell and a prayer by local minister Rev. Leonard Lester, one of the speakers for the luncheon was Rachel Normansell, a Business Development Manager for Yodel. Yodel is an event calendar management app. Its website states, “Yodel serves as a one-stop solution, offering a comprehensive platform that simplifies finding things to do locally. From festivals to fundraisers, classes to concerts, you can effortlessly explore and engage with events tailored to your interests” through personal recommendations, an easy-to-use interface and the ability to browse by collection for various types of events.

Following up Normansell’s time



Ta’Mia Bledsoe who completed her Medical Assisting courses, and is now working with Access Health of Barbourville, Ky.

PHOTO BY NIKKI STANLEY

on the floor, Knox County Judge-Executive Mike Mitchell stated regarding Yodel, “...what a tool that this will be for economic impact going forward,” before reiterating the news of a new industrial park property purchase by the county.

“We were awarded a KPDJ grant through the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet...for 3.5 million dollars. \$2.8 of that is the actual grant, then we’ve got to come up with the other remaining balance, but we’ve got that secured,” Mitch-

ell added.

SKCTC Administrator Derek Collins spoke of the institution’s program, Going Pro, and its spotlight on students, by leading into a time where SKCTC students came forward to “sign” with their employer, akin to an athlete signing with a college or pro sports franchise. “It will bring up certain students that have completed their certificates or their classes, and then we’ve got their employers here with them, and I asked Judge Mitchell to sit with them and sign those over and just to kind of promote and give them a round of applause for achieving what they have,” Collins said.

The first student called up to sign with their employer by their side was Peyton Mason, a combination welder, who is now working for T&T Farm Services, LLC, followed by:

- Jake Mayne, who has completed the Journeyman Plumber courses and now is working for Mayne Stream Plumbing.
- James Blevins, who has also completed the Journeyman Plumber courses and is now working for Blevins and Sons Plumbing.
- Alysha Moses, who was unable to attend, had completed her Nurs-

ing Assistant skills, and is now employed with Heritage Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility as a CNA.

• Tyler Warren, who was also unable to attend due to being at work with Pepsi Cola Bottling Company. He completed his Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) certification. Admin Collins shared of Tyler Warren, “He also...broke -I don’t know if this is a good thing or not... the timing record on maneuvering a CDL truck through the course.” The audience laughed. “Normally it takes seven to 10 minutes, and he did it in two. So, I think the instructor was as impressed as we were...[Warren] was one of our first groups going through, and we were like, ‘Now how are we going to top that?’.He wasn’t able to make it, but we’re very proud of Tyler.”

• Ta’Mia Bledsoe who completed her Medical Assisting courses, and is now working with Access Health of Barbourville, Kentucky.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Knox County Chamber of Commerce will be Tuesday, May 27 at 12 p.m. at the Student Center at Union Commonwealth University, unless otherwise stated prior to the event.

Daniel Boone Family Healthcare is now ‘AdventHealth Daniel Boone Clinic’



Rodney Smith, APRN, Melinda Smith, APRN, and Amanda Hubbard, APRN will continue serving Knox County through the AdventHealth Daniel Boone Clinic.

AdventHealth Manchester is excited to announce that Daniel Boone Family Healthcare is now AdventHealth Daniel Boone Clinic. Located at 1881 South US Hwy 25E, Barbourville, KY 40906, this clinic will continue to offer exceptional primary care services to the community under the trusted AdventHealth name.

In line with our mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, the clinic is staffed by a dedicated team of providers, including Rodney Smith, APRN, Melinda Smith, APRN, and Amanda Hubbard, APRN. These experienced professionals are committed to delivering personalized and comprehensive healthcare to patients of all ages.

Nick Bejarano, AdventHealth Manchester President & CEO, shared, “We are excited to welcome Daniel Boone Family Healthcare to the AdventHealth family as AdventHealth Daniel Boone Clinic. This is a significant step in our KY Everywhere strategy, aimed at expanding our footprint and enhancing our ability to provide exceptional, faith-based healthcare services. Together, we will continue to deliver quality, personalized care and make a positive impact on the health and well-being of our community.”

Rodney Smith, APRN, expressed his reassurance and gratitude: “Having provided care to this area since 2003, and with Daniel Boone Family Healthcare since its opening in April 2008, I am excited to join the AdventHealth

team. You will continue to see the same smiling faces and receive the same great care, just under a different name. Our team remains dedicated to ensuring that every patient receives the best possible care in a welcoming and supportive environment.”

The AdventHealth Daniel Boone Clinic offers a wide range of services, including preventive care, chronic disease management, and wellness programs. Patients can expect to receive individualized attention and treatment plans tailored to their unique needs.

To schedule an appointment or learn more about the services offered, please call 1-800-457-2586 or visit PrimaryCareForLife.com.

About AdventHealth Manchester

AdventHealth is a connected network of care that helps people feel whole – body, mind, and spirit. More than 100,000 team members across a national footprint provide whole-person care to nearly nine million people annually through more than 2,000 care sites that include hospitals, physician practices, ambulatory surgery centers, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, hospice centers, the AdventHealth app, and more. Our holistic approach to improving the health and prosperity of our communities is inspired by our mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ. For the latest news about AdventHealth, visit www.AdventHealth.com/news

SCHOOLS

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experienced, longtime teachers. The rise in wages for the last three or more years would positively affect the retirement income the educators would stand to receive.

During Monday’s meeting, much of the discussion centered on starting wages for bus drivers, custodians, and cooks. While the current starting wages for Custodians is \$10 an hour, Bus Drivers is \$12.80 per hour, and cooks are \$10 per hour, the Board felt that they would like to see an increase for those workers, with a speculated number being around \$14 per hour. They agreed to run salary charts and chart numbers to see how they could viably increase wages. A decision is pending and has not yet been made as various pay scales are being discussed.

The Board also covered other items on the agenda, such as:

- Discuss and/or Take Action to Approve BG1 (BG 18-074) to Close Project: This was a cafeteria project that had been finished for some time but had not yet been closed out due to some outstanding credits remaining that BIS was sorting out, prolonging the closure of the project. After all project items had been paid off, they approximated a remaining \$53,000, which could now be used for upcoming projects.

The Board approved the item to Close the Project.

- Discuss and/or Take Action to Approve District Facility Plan (DFP) Amendment: This is an amendment to the current DFP, adding a potential project to the plan, which Superintendent Dennis Messer stated that the District Facility Committee had “all voted in favor of” adding to the plan. The project in question was to be discussed in a closed session.

The Board approved the Amendment.

- Discuss and/or Take Action to Approve MOU with KEDC: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) is an item on the agenda that the Board approved. Messer explained “KEDC is a Co-op partner of ours. We use them for some of our purchasing. They do the bidding for us, so we don’t have to take bids on everything. Sometimes we select off their bid list, instead of us taking individual bids. They also are a benefit to some of our teachers. They do training.”

- Discuss and/or Take Action on Purchase Agreement with Union Commonwealth University: Messer explained, “This is just something we’ve already discussed... in closed session. This is just the agreement that the Board has agreed on. Nothing’s changed on it. It’s just...Union Commonwealth, they had to go before their Big Board to get ‘okay,’ and we were waiting on that. So that is moving forward as we speak.”

The Board approved this item.

The Board’s next regular meeting will be at 6:30pm, Tuesday, May 13.

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Poetry Corner

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SEEDLINGS

Frances Denise

Instagram: [@francesdenisepoetry](https://www.instagram.com/francesdenisepoetry)

My body is tense
My mind
Even my heart
Suspended
Anxious, waiting
For things to feel... right again?
Easy?
Connected?
My spirit is in flight
She knows what she knows
Yet the aches and pains
And heartbreaks of the world
Feel so very much sometimes
Relentless, consistent

We are being pushed to breaking point
For what?
Remind me.
Prayers for mercy, relief
Only to be found
In the earth that holds our feet
You have to step outside
Take a good look around
To see that life, and love
Desires so much
To break ground
Let me tell you this:
If it weren’t for the big and little
Miracles that have taken root in my chest
In my womb
On the tips of my fingers
I wouldn’t still be here
I wouldn’t still be here.



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