

The Beattyville Enterprise

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Lee County HOSA Students along with the Lee County Health Dept Talks to City Council Concerning Under Age Tobacco Sales

The Beattyville City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 8, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Scott Jackson. Sally Gilbert, City Clerk, called the roll. All council members were present except Ronnie Stamper (sick). Councilman Sam Cockerham gave the Invocation. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Scott Jackson welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

Susan Kincaid from the Lee County Health Department was present to talk to the council about the Tobacco/THC retail project. "I wrote a very small grant around June for \$2,000. This is to basically bring light on advertising for tobacco and THC in Lee County. I didn't have the time to go out and do it myself so I wrote the grant and we received it. Part of the grant was I got to hire three of our local students to go out and do this project. Some of the retailers in Lee County did not want us at their establishments. Part of the project was that they had to do a one pager, a video voice over and present it to at least three boards or meetings. They have already surpassed that. Whenever it is all said and done, they will have presented it six times." Willow Tipton, Leshia Gross, and Billi Brandenburg are with HOSA and they have been working on this project with the health department since August. Each girl took turns talking about what they have done with this project. "The purpose of the project is to prevent and slow the sales of tobacco products to underage youth, show how advertisements target the youth and prove the easy access of these products to our youth. We conducted a survey at each of 13 tobacco retail locations in Lee County looking at product placement, signage and personally asking questions



to staff," one girl said. Another girl said, "six of the places we visited had illegal vapes right out in the open." Their message is "Lee County – Do Better." A question was asked to City Police Chief Cody Sparks – who is supposed to monitor this. His response was "Senate Bill 100 requires the state as of January 1, 2026 to start enforcing the sale of tobacco. Before that, it was pretty much they gave it to us and then they took the enforcement away from local law enforcement. In the middle of last year they gave it back to us. Starting January of 2026 it will go back to ABC. So, the same ones that do alcohol." Susan went on to say, "my next question is what now? This grant was a one and done. We can not apply for it again. I would love to take this one step further, especially now with what he (Cody) says. I would like to do a followup. This has been an eye opener for me." The suggestion was made for them to write some kind of proposal and present it to the city council for some funding through the Opioid money that the city has.

Jesse Land and his wife Paula, along with Paula's sister, Carrie, talked to the council about equine therapy in Lee County through Eagala, an International group. This group offers psychotherapy to people ages 6 and up. There is a therapist that will work with them and an equine spe-

cialist as well. Jesse said, "in Lee County we have all kinds of programs to stop drugs, prevent drugs, keep people out of jail and some of it works really well. If you look it up, nationwide, Lee County, Kentucky had the most deaths in 2025 related to drugs with 11 per capita. We are working on a non-profit. We are working under the Eagala platform. This is using therapy with horses. We are going after first responders, police officers, ambulance drivers, firemen, service people, PTSD and ADHD. Paula is the grant writer/paperwork person, Carrie is the horse certified person and I am the farm manager. We also have a full time therapist. She lives in Mount Sterling. Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance will pay for these services. It pays for the therapist, horse training and any additional therapy items but it does not pay for feed, seed, fertilizer, farm, fencing, barn and all that kind of stuff. That is where the non-profit comes in. We are going to try to meet the person when they have a mental or physical problem before they ever start the drugs. Maybe we can keep somebody off drugs as opposed to getting them off drugs." Paula said, "Eagala is a team effort. It is geared toward PTSD and kids with ADHD. We are working with a licensed

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2024 financial audit of Lee County Sheriff released

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the 2024 financial statement of Lee County Sheriff Joseph Lucas. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff.

In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office. Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Lee County

Sheriff in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the sheriff's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology.

This reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff audits in Kentucky. Finding: Financial statement was materially misstated. The sheriff's calendar year 2024 annual settlement was materially misstated.

The sheriff erroneously recorded add-on fees

as tax commissions in the amount of \$15,379.

The sheriff's bookkeeper was unaware that add-on fees should not have been recorded with tax commissions.

Recommendations: We recommend the sheriff improve controls over the receipt recording process.

County Officials Response Sheriff's Response: Add-on fees were added in with commissions. Needs to be kept separate. In the future, we will do our best to ensure they are kept separate. The sheriff's responsibilities include collecting property taxes,

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LCMHS' Riley Hall Breaks 17-Minute Barrier at New Balance Nationals

LCMHS standout runner Riley Hal (pictured right), the son of Tommy and Angie Hall of Beattyville, achieved a major personal milestone this past weekend at the New Balance Nationals in Alabama.

Hall set out with a long-time goal of breaking the 17-minute mark in the 5K — and he delivered.

Clocking an impressive 16:59.54, Hall secured his sub-17 finish and capped off a strong performance on the national stage.

His accomplishment marks a significant step forward in his running career and adds another highlight to LCMHS' growing presence in competitive distance



Cheer Team and Pride of the Mountains Band Recognized at the December School Board Meeting



L-R: Avis Thompson, Donald Napier, Tony Barrett, Ben Brownfield, Joey Brownfield, William Owens, David Caudell, Ray Shuler. LCMHS Senior Joey Brownfield is holding the plaque that the LCMHS Pride of the Mountains Band won at State this year.

On Tuesday December 9th, the Lee County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting with the following board members in attendance; Owens, Napier, Thompson, Caudell.

The board recognized the Middle School cheer team for their recent performance at 14th Regionals along with band director Tony Barrett and Senior member Joey Brownfield for their successful season.

Barrett stated that their recent performance at Bands Of America in Indianapolis, Lucas Oil Stadium was a first for Lee County High and that they

were the smallest band in attendance; competing against schools with band members in the 100's.

Recognition for bus driver Perry Thorpe was listed on the agenda but tabled to next month's meeting.

For the finance report, officer Tina Lucas stated expenditures for the month of November were approximately \$581k (+) and revenue was approximately \$1.3m (+).

The KAS Data Instructional Report was recently released and presented to the board by Karen Angel.

The report showed slight improvement for all areas in comparison to last

year's report, minus Lee County Elementary whose scores dropped in reading and math.

The following is in comparison to the previous years report/scores: LCE reading & math 2025 score 46.9 (2024's score; 63.3), rating low, color orange. Science, Social Studies, On Demand Writing score for 2025; 58 (2024 score 58.9), rating medium, color yellow. Survey score 2025 71.5 (2024 score 75.1), rating low, color orange. Overall score 2025 52.6 (2024

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