

## •BOARD Continued from page A1

School Campus area would need to address for the future years. That meeting was well attended by all four stakeholders and each highlighted item was noted for the working session on February 17 called session to prioritize the most advantageous planning with Sherman Carter Barnhart Architects. Some existing elements also weigh into the overall construction within the area such as the geothermal field, concession structure, spectator seating along with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance. Three areas of focus chosen for the architects were practice facilities, soccer, track and football fields. The architects will review existing elements and new focus areas with a presentation of a construction phase beginning in the fall of 2025 after seasonal programs for a sport has been completed, along with consideration of the budget (\$15,000,000). to a future School Board meeting. The meetings are open to the public with an agenda announcement prior to the date of meeting.

At 5:30 p.m. a Special Called Finance Corporation Meeting was called to order by Superintendent Travis Hamby to elect officers of the finance corporation. Members elected Brian Celsor as Chair of the Allen County District Finance Corporation, which Chair Celsor presided for the balance of

elections. Members elected Al Barman,vice chairperson; Travis Hamby, secretary; and Kristie Mc Duffee, treasurer. Minutes of the annual Finance Corporation meeting of February 11, 2025 were approved with noted spelling corrections of some names.

The regular working session of the Board was called to order at 5 p.m. All Campus principals gave verbal reports to the Board of goals and evaluations for each school. Director Mallory Hart, Allen County-Scottsville Help Engage Listen Prioritize Support (AC-S HELPS), along with Doug Berry, reviewed members of the HELPS grant (\$4,000,000-\$800,000 per year) and Orton Gillingham Contract. The five-year Grant was implemented in the Fall of 2023 and the Gillingham Contract includes training of teachers to recognize mental health exposure and community violence issues affecting classroom activities, as well as students ability or inability, to adjust when experiencing deficits in self esteem, death of a friend or relative, suicide threat and manipulating issues within the daily life of instruction and socialization. Year two of implementation reflects a decrease of 26 percent of documented areas within school students; which had a baseline of 2,467 cases at the beginning and currently has

1,837 cases being addressed during the current period of documentation. Another positive influence recognized, has been each campus has a room dedicated for students to retreat in for a brief break of relaxation outside of the pressing day’s schedule to regain focus of instruction time. While teachers are not mandated to partake in the contract program, the training goal of 90 percent will enable instructors to recognize student’s issues affecting their learning ability and recommend greater outside mental health services if needed. Currently overall feed back is very positive of the training and student improved reactions within mental health exposure.

At 6 p.m. Chair Celsor called the regular board meeting to order and recognized coaches and students of the swim team as well as the academic team. Swim team Coach Mitch Clark gave a summary of their season with record breaking scores by local students as well as advancing to state competitions in the next few weeks. Academic team coaches Crabtree and Basket related the progress of the Academic Team members; as the program is revitalized in the school system after a lull of some years. Each team member introduced their selves and area of expertise to board

attendees.

Special recognition was bestowed to Jim Eberston and Paula Goodridge for volunteerism within the school district. The husband-wife team has dedicated three days a week at James E. Bazzell Middle School for the last few years as volunteers in tutoring or student interaction as needed and enjoys knowing each student’s accomplishments within the life of the academic environment.

Members of the Board approved the consent agenda, which includes fundraiser events and overnight trips, reports of curriculum and instruction grants and district finances.

Approved action items included the creation of a Dance Team at Allen County-Scottsville High School with 50 percent financial support of the board. Renewal of student accident insurance from Berkley Accident and Health for 2025-2026 academic year. The revision of Staffing Allocation Formula is mainly a clean up of language related to the formula and was approved for submission to the State Board of Education in May. Approve acknowledge of review of fiscal year 2026 tentative Site Based Decision Making allocations was given. Board approval was given for Jordan Clark of Charles M. Moore Insurance Agency as agent of record for the 2025-2026 school year.

## •BREAKFAST Continued from page A2

show in Louisville,” Shell said. “She was confirmed and sworn in on Friday and was in Kentucky Friday night. A farmer and his two sons, who are heavily involved in 4-H and FFA, were there. We had a little time in which we brought in some farmers to come into a suite and meet the Secretary, shake hands, and talk for a moment. One of the sons (Silas), who is a 16 year old from LaRue County, started to walk away. I was there and saw what I thought was happening in his mind. Silas turned and looked to the ground as if he was building up the courage to do what he was going to do. He turned back around and said ‘Madame Secretary, I would like to tell you about what we have here in Kentucky that is working to save farmers’ lives. It’s the Challenge Coin program in the Raising Hope Program. He pulled out one of the challenge coins for her and gave her the spill about Raising Hope and what it meant to him. He then shared a handshake with the Secretary of the USDA.”

Shell went on to add that its moments like these, which reflect the qualities instilled through FFA and 4-H programs.

“When I think about what it means to put back into this next generation and how we are going to build leaders and change the world, it is because of things like that,” Shell stated. “It’s because of programs like FFA and 4-H, because of programs like Raising Hope; it’s pouring into the next generation to give them the courage to do things like that. Everything we do for the next generations is going to pay dividends for the future. There are no other organizations that do what FFA and 4-H does for these kids. It’s truly life changing.”

Shell reemphasized how Allen County farmers are vital to the community and the country.

“From the beginning of time and until the end of time, agriculture will be the most important profession in the world,” Shell explained. “You can’t have a global superpower like we are in America or cities like we have in America with having American and Kentucky agriculture. If you cannot feed your population, you cannot do anything. The farmers that are in the room today and these kids that are going to be future farmers, the agri-business

throughout Allen County, Kentucky, and America are the backbone of what we do.”

Shell noted that a key focus currently in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture is working with local schools, hospitals, restaurants, and retailers to help create more opportunities for Kentucky farmers. The Commissioner expressed a desire to help provide the local farmer with additional markets, thus reducing the need for consumers to purchase agriculture produce from other states or other parts of the world.

The Kentucky commissioner also shared a little about the collaboration efforts being promoted by his department. The collaborations include ways educators and farmers could collaborate to introduce youngsters to farming. One example shared was how Shell’s father welcomed hundreds of elementary students to his farm for a day of learning last spring. Shell challenged the farmers to consider working with the local schools for “All-In” for Agriculture activities.

FFA students and 4-H members also received recognition by Shell

for their continued work to promote and support the Kentucky Ag Tag program.

“In Kentucky, if you are a farmer and have a commercial tag for a vehicle, you can donate an extra \$10 to the Ag Tag program,” Shell explained. “That fund is separated into thirds between FFA, 4-H, and Kentucky Proud for ag education across the state of Kentucky. Half of that money comes directly back to the community from which it came. The other half goes into a foundation. All of this helps kids all across the state. This helps FFA students get

their blue and gold jackets. This helps students as they through SAE projects to understand what agriculture entrepreneurship is about and what it is like to be a farmer or in agri-business. It is the same thing on the 4-H side, if a kid wants to purchase livestock to help with a program. This money is life-changing for the kids.”

The high school FFA chapter is under the leadership of educators Nikki Towe and Brandon Weaver. University of Kentucky Ag extension agent for 4-H Youth Development, Anna Meador, guides Allen County 4-H.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Republican Reorganization

Allen County, Ky., Republican Party Reorganization will be held Monday, March 3. Registration starts at 5:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Allen County Fiscal Courtroom, 201 W. Main Street.

All eligible registered Republicans in Allen County who were registered by October 18, 2024, are permitted to participate in their precinct committee elections.

Reorganization occurs every four years following the presidential election. This process will take place in every precinct, county and District within the Commonwealth. The purpose of this organization is to elect leadership within the party.

We look forward to seeing all Allen County Republicans at our Reorganization!

### Soup/Chili Supper

On Saturday, March 8, East Allen Volunteer Fire Department, 1600 Lafayette Road, Holland, Ky., is having a soup/chili supper at 5 p.m. Cake walk is 6 p.m.

This fund raiser is to assist in the purchase of new airpacks for the firefighters.

### Scottsville Rotary Scholarships Available

The Scottsville Rotary Scholarship Committee has opened the application window for 2025 High School Senior Scholarships until March 30, 2025.

Any high school senior (public or private schooling) is welcome to apply by completing an application along with submitting a 300-500 word essay of future college goals, as well as involvement in community service.

An approved application will award \$500 per semester with renewal up to four years with a student maintaining a 3.0 GPA.

Application acquisition in person at Allen County Public Library, c/o Shelia Stovall, 106 W. Public Square, Scottsville, Ky. 42164 or by mail: Scottsville Rotary Club, c/o Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 633, Scottsville, Ky. 42614.

### Rotary Speech Contest

The Scottsville Rotary Club is proud to host its annual Rotary Speech Contest on March 7, 2025, inviting all high school students in Allen County to participate.

This competition offers students a chance to develop their public speaking skills, share their ideas on meaningful topics, and compete for cash prizes and advancement to higher levels of competition.

The contest is open to all high school students in grades 9-12 residing in Allen County, including those attending public, private and home schools.

### Prizes & Competition Progression:

•First Place: \$300 & advances to the sectional competition

•Second Place: \$200

•Third Place: \$100

The first-place winner will move on to the Rotary Sectional Speech Contest, with further opportunities to compete at the regional and district levels.

### Important Dates:

•Application Deadline: March 1, 2025

•Speech Contest Date: March 7, 2025

### How to Apply:

Students interested in competing can fill out the application form found online at <https://www.rotarydistrict6710.org/district-speech-contest.php>

For additional details, please contact the Speech Contest Committee Chair, D. Porter, at [dandrewporter@gmail.com](mailto:dandrewporter@gmail.com).

The Scottsville Rotary Club encourages all eligible students to take part in this exciting opportunity to sharpen their communication skills, gain confidence, and compete for great rewards.



Supporters of  
 Allen County FFA  
 Chapter  
 can be found on page  
 B2 of this issue.

### FFA MOTTO:

*Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.*