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The Kentucky Standard

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025

NC Board of Education gets look into facility planning

Facility safety and upkeep discussed

BY KATELYN NORRIS
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Nelson County Schools' Board of Education dove into the process of drafting a District Facility Plan at Tuesday's meeting where they learned more about the recent Local Planning Committee meetings.

During Tuesday's working session the county BOE received an update from LPC Chair Adam Gossom about the current state of drafting a new DFP. Last week, the LPC approved a draft of the document, which outlines facility needs across varying schools in the district.

One big-ticket item from the draft was the recommendation to create an east and west 6-12 buildings. Gossom explained the members of the LPC evaluated each of the four discussed models for middle and high school students based on the following criteria: teacher access, smart use of funding, location and bus-ing, and student access.

Over the course of several weeks different data was presented to the committee, which informed the decisions of selecting the model. LPC members placed a dot on the poster next to the model that would be best for each criterion.

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Telling stories, making art



PETER W. ZUBATY/The Kentucky Standard

Jim Cantrell and his wife, Jeannette, are surrounded by decades of his art projects over the course of their 54 years in Bardstown. Over the years, Jeannette has documented more than 2,800 of Jim's paintings — 1,900 in watercolors and 900 in oils — as well as more than 400 drawings. He is also an accomplished potter and woodworker.

Cantrell's work is integral to the story of Bardstown

BY PETER W. ZUBATY
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A keen eye and sense of vibrancy, combined with an active imagination and a willingness to experiment, colors renowned artist Jim Cantrell's vision of Bardstown, and the world around him.

"We just like to have fun," Cantrell said.

Jim Cantrell found his way to Bardstown almost by accident 54 years ago. He and his wife,

Jeannette, both Nebraska natives, had been in Berea and were looking for a location in Central Kentucky. In 1971, they checked out Elizabethtown, but it didn't appeal to them, so they were headed back to Berea. They initially weren't going to stop in Bardstown, but Jim figured they were already here, so why not give it a look?

One of the first things they spotted was a rickhouse filled with aging barrels of bourbon. "This ain't all bad — and

Berea was dry as a bone," Jim said. "We drove around and I just loved it."

Jim is a painter, but had also taken up pottery during his time in Nebraska and Colorado. He says the pottery is what brought he and Jeannette to Kentucky, and he was working as a demonstrating artist at Berea College. He had a Master's of Arts degree, but not a Master's of Fine Arts, which meant at that time he couldn't teach college.

They had a family to raise, and soon there would be a shift in focus as he decided to forego a career in academia and instead go pro.

During their drive through Bardstown and Nelson County, they noticed the plethora of Catholic churches in addition to the rickhouses and the historic architecture. Then one more thing caught their eye: Pottershop Road.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BERNHEIM FOREST AND ARBORETUM

Carmel Bowman (center) was awarded as a 2025 Isaac Wolfe Bernheim Climate Hero Award by Bernheim Forest and Arboretum last month. She was honored alongside her sister Maggie Hettinger (right) and Franklin County seventh-grader Ayla Tolentino (left).

Bowman honored with Climate Hero Awards

'You can make a difference'

BY KATELYN NORRIS
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Nelson County resident Carmel Bowman strives to make the world a better place focusing on what she can do to protect the Earth.

In April, Bowman and her sister, Bullitt County resident Maggie Hettinger, were honored by Bernheim Forest and Arboretum with the 2025 Isaac Wolfe Bernheim Climate Hero Awards. Established last year, the award honors environmental stewards who are making

SEE **CLIMATE/PAGE A2**

Nelson County Schools celebrate annual Pride Awards

District retirees get heartfelt sendoff

BY KATELYN NORRIS
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More than a dozen retirees said goodbye to Nelson County Schools on Thursday during the annual Pride Awards, where educators from every school were recognized for their service to their students and the district.

The school year is coming to a close this May and NCS brought together teachers, administrators and district staff to celebrate one another. On May 8, the 17 retirees with the schools were honored for their time and dedication.

Additionally, Nelson County Schools recognized individuals who received a Pride Award during the school year. The awards are given to those who excel in five categories — one staff member is honored per category — including Put people first, Reimagine possibilities, Innovate and grow, Dedicated community and Energize the world.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NELSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Boston Principal Nikki King embraces Assistant Principal Martina Amshoff during Thursday's Pride Awards celebrating the latter's retirement.

The evening's 17 retirees honored included long-time educators, loving bus drivers, beloved facilities leads and many more staff that will be missed by students and peers alike. The NCS retirees are Martina Amshoff, Laura Bartley, Laura Cornish, Anne Cox,

Sue Dumais, Julie Duvardo, Jennifer Hash, Kevin Mattingly, Jennifer Mobley, Barry Nesbit, Kathi Ohler, Dottie Pike, Mike Rogers, Karen Taylor, Trista Wheatley, Sandy Wimpsett and Penny Bradley.

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>>>OBITUARIES

Mary Carlile Barber Willett, 93
Martha Willett Kulsveen, 77
Arlene Haynes, 86

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