

Hawks end regular season with win over Commanders

BY STAFF REPORT

The LaRue County boys' basketball team ended the regular season on a high note.

Jagger Mardis had 22 points and seven rebounds and Landon Blakey finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds in the Hawks' 75-46 win at 5th Region rival Washington County on Feb. 21.

Michael Harris chipped in with 13 points, while Lucas Thompson scored eight.

Cole Miller and Braylin McDowell each scored five for LaRue County, which hit the 20-win mark on the year as it improved to 20-8 overall.

The Hawks shot 55.1% from the field (27 of 49) and connected on 11 of 24 shots from beyond the arc en route to their fifth straight win.

LaRue County hosted the 18th District Basketball Tournament this week, which started Monday night. The Hawks took on Caverna in Tuesday's semifinals.



Photo by Dan Townsend

Addison Skaggs added 16 points and eight rebounds in Friday's game against Washington County.



photo by Dan Townsend

Ellah Pruitt scored a career-high 21 points during Friday's game.

GIRLS

Washington County 60, LaRue County 57

Ellah Pruitt scored a career-high 21 points and grabbed six rebounds, but it wasn't enough as the Lady Hawks wrapped up the regular season with a loss to the Commanders on the road Feb. 21.

Addison Skaggs added 16 points and eight rebounds, while Kaylee Warren scored eight.

Scout Patrick contributed six points and 11 rebounds for LaRue County, which ended the regular season with a 6-16 record.

The Lady Hawks hosted the 18th District Basketball Tournament this week, starting Monday night. They faced Hart County in Tuesday's semifinals.



photo by Dan Townsend

Jagger Mardis had 22 points and seven rebounds against Washington County Friday evening.



photo by Dan Townsend

Michael Harris chipped in with 13 points during Friday's game.

BILLS

FROM PAGE B7

and strengthens payroll consistency while prioritizing job security for full-time employees. The bill would require remote state employees to return to in-person work. It allows designated executive, judicial, and legislative leaders to set a policy allowing up to two monthly telework days for certain employees. The bill reclassifies wardens as non-merit employees to address challenges in juvenile detention facilities and allow for faster leadership changes when needed.

SB 84 reins in bureaucratic overreach by requiring Kentucky courts to interpret laws independently without deferring to state agencies. It mandates de novo review for judges to decide legal questions based on statutory text alone. This reform aligns with the 2024 U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning the Chevron doctrine, which previously expanded agency power by allowing

courts to defer to agency interpretations. Without this safeguard, Kentucky agencies could continue exceeding legislative intent. Senate Bill 84 ensures legal ambiguities are resolved against expanded agency authority to preserve judicial independence and the balance of power.

SB 87 strengthens Kentucky's aviation industry by streamlining procurement for major commercial airports, increasing safety measures, and expanding workforce development opportunities. It allows Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International, Lexington's Blue Grass, and Louisville International airports to follow FAA small purchase procedures for transactions up to \$150,000 while maintaining state oversight for larger purchases. The bill raises fines for airport regulation violations, updates legal terminology, and repeals outdated unmanned aircraft mapping requirements. It ensures transparency by requiring an annual report on the Kentucky

Aviation Economic Development Fund while limiting funding to general aviation airports. Additionally, it directs the Council on Postsecondary Education to study the creation of an FAA-recognized air traffic control or safety program at a Kentucky university with a timeline for implementation.

SB 103 enhances transparency and accountability within the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to better support individuals with disabilities. With Kentucky ranking 48th nationally in employment disparity, the bill requires the OVR executive director to establish a preference for in-state service providers—unless doing so would effectively deny an individual access to a necessary service available out-of-state. This ensures that Kentucky-based providers are prioritized while maintaining essential service access. The bill also mandates clear service fee regulations to prevent arbitrary costs and improve

fairness. Additionally, it strengthens oversight by requiring OVR to submit an annual report to the governor and provide a comprehensive review of its operations and finances. By reinforcing transparency and prioritizing in-state services, SB 103 advances Kentucky's commitment to expanding job opportunities and independence for individuals with disabilities.

SB 111 strengthens Kentucky's juvenile justice system by prioritizing mental health treatment for youth in crisis and improving facility safety. The bill supports the design of a secure high-acuity mental health facility for juveniles experiencing severe crises to ensure they receive appropriate

care rather than being placed in standard detention units. It also establishes a structured continuum of care to improve evaluation and treatment placement for mentally ill youth. Additionally, the bill enhances facility safety and staffing by creating a clear process for transferring violent juveniles from non-secure inpatient facilities to appropriate settings. While initial plans for two female-only detention centers were removed because it is a non-budget session, the General Assembly seems committed to securing funding in a future budget cycle. By addressing critical gaps in Kentucky's juvenile justice system, SB 111 positions the state to comply with federal recommendations and

improve long-term outcomes for at-risk youth.

SB 179 establishes a \$10 million grant program within the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority (KNEDA) to support and attract nuclear energy projects. Funded through existing appropriations to the University of Kentucky, the program will be administered by a KNEDA advisory subcommittee and provide targeted investment in nuclear innovation. By advancing nuclear energy development, SB 179 strengthens Kentucky's position as a leader in the industry, fosters economic growth, and reinforces the state's commitment to a diverse and reliable energy portfolio.

YOUR CUSTOMER
JUST READ THIS AD.

**Advertise in The LaRue
County Herald News.**

www.laruecountyherald.com

First Baptist Church Hodgenville



FREE CONCERT

LOVE OFFERING TAKEN

Sunday, March 16th 6 PM, Doors open 5 PM



Contact us at **(270) 358-3193**
Our address **730 Tonieville Road**
Visit our website at **fbchodgenville.com**