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# THE LARUE COUNTY HERALD NEWS

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## Council member Hornback served Hodgenville well



File photo  
**SHARON HORNBACK**

**BY ALLISON SHEPHERD**  
PUBLISHER

Hodgenville City council member Sharon Hornback passed away on Friday, June 20. Hornback has served the council since January of 2015, following her retirement from the local Dollar General where she was known as the ‘have a super safe one’ lady for 15 years.

Hodgenville Mayor Phelps said of Hornback, that she was a long-time, dependable councilwoman that did a great job representing the city. “She will be sorely missed. I appreciate all the work she did for the city.” He also extended comfort to the family during their time of loss. The death of Hornback

prompts the Mayor to appoint a replacement within 30 days. Phelps stated he will present a person for that seat at the next Hodgenville Council meeting on July 14. At the meeting the remaining council members will vote on the appointment. If they do not approve the appointment, the Governor’s office will appoint Hornback’s replacement.

A memorial service for council woman Sharon Hornback is scheduled for Sunday, June 20 at the Hodgenville Civic Center. Visitation begins at 2 p.m. with a funeral service at 3:30 p.m.

**MORE INSIDE**  
A full obituary appears on **Page A3** of today’s edition.

## ARTICULATING AGRICULTURE

### Telling the untold stories of local producers

**BY VICTORIA COX**  
EDITOR

They may be small, sweet and packed into pint-size containers in grocery stores, but growing blueberries is anything but simple. Local producers Annie and Roger Stradley know firsthand how particular the crop can be, and have spent the past seven years learning how to appease the temperamental berries. Despite the ever-possible frustrations, the pair attest there is nothing more rewarding than having a ripe field ready to be picked by little hands. As a self-described life-long entrepreneur who chases good ideas, the decision to begin a blueberry patch came from a simple inquiry asking if Roger had ever considered doing so. He dismissed the idea at first, because becoming a blueberry farmer had genuinely never been on his bingo card. As he continued to contemplate and investigate the proposition, though, the more the opportunity called to him. Spurred by the curiosity of a



Photo by Victoria Cox

Levi Emerson, of New Haven, is pictured picking blueberries at Annie’s Art Farm.

new project, the Stradley’s jumped headfirst into the idea by purchasing 1,200 blueberry plants. The fruits were planted across one acre of land near their residence in Hodgenville in early 2018 and began producing berries the following summer. The

operation — which was named through merging Annie’s love for creating artwork with the land’s productions — is known as Annie’s Art Farm.

SEE **AGRICULTURE/PAGE A6**



## Public hearing set for June 26

**BY VICTORIA COX**  
EDITOR

The LaRue County Fiscal Court will conduct a trial-type public hearing at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 26 to reconsider two rezoning requests. The hearing, which has been court ordered by LaRue Circuit Court Judge Charles Simms III, will refer to two rezoning requests of over 230 acres from A1, agriculture, to I2, heavy industrial. The first property, owned by TDA Properties Inc., is comprised of 118.315 acres at 3116 Tonieville Road, Hodgenville; the second, owned by Pence Leasing LLC., is comprised of 118.288 acres also along Tonieville Road. Although the Land of Lincoln Planning and Zoning Commission, recommended the rezonings be approved in 2023, the fiscal court has denied the requests on two separate occasions. In April, Judge Simms ruled that the county considered evidence not presented to the planning and zoning commission when making its decision. Per state precedent, doing so is prohibited without first hosting a trial-type hearing and subsequently making findings of “adjudicative facts based on the evidence presented.” Otherwise, the fiscal court is required to either follow the recommendation from the Planning Commission or review the record made before the commission and make its own findings of fact from said record. This ruling ultimately means the fiscal court proceedings violated the due process rights of TDA and Pence. Because of this, Judge Simms stated he had no choice but to order the fiscal court to conduct a hearing with procedural due process.

SEE **HEARING/PAGE A6**

## School board rejects book ban request

**BY VICTORIA COX**  
EDITOR

The LaRue County Board of Education heard both criticism and praise last week when members were asked to remove 14 books from the high school library. Although the vote was split, the board ultimately refused to ban the books, citing the need to uphold the constitutional rights of students. The books in question

were: Sold, by Patricia McCormick; The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison; The Handmaid’s Tale, by Margaret Atwood; Homegoing, by Yaa Gyasi; Kingdom of Ash, by Sarah J. Maas; The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini; The Last Night at The Telegraph Club, by Malinda Lo; A Love Story, by Abdi Nazemi-an; Nineteen Minutes, by Jodi Picoult; People Kill People, by Ellen Hopkins; Perfect, by

Ellen Hopkins; The Perks of Being a Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky; Red Hood, by Elana Arnold; and Tilt, by Ellen Hopkins. According to documents provided by the district through Open Records Requests, LaRue County School Superintendent Adryanne Warren was contacted in early May with a request that the district reconsider the availability

of the above books. The review was completed by a screening committee — comprised of then LaRue County High School Principal Justin Craft, the LCHS librarian, two English teachers and two LCHS parents — which determined after a 90-minute discussion and deliberation that the books would remain in circulation.

SEE **SCHOOL/PAGE A6**

## Restaurant tax starts next week

**BY VICTORIA COX**  
EDITOR

Consumers purchasing ready-to-eat food within Hodgenville will begin paying an additional 3% restaurant tax on Tuesday, July 1. The tax will apply to any fixed or mobile commercial establishment that prepares and serves ready-to-eat foods sold within city limits. 20 brick-and-mortar locations affected by the tax have been identified: Laha’s Red Castle, Papa John’s, The Sweet Shoppe, Kayla’s Fill-Up Station, Vibe Coffee, Taco Bell, Hometown Pizza, Subway,



Hardee’s, Casey’s, McDonald’s, Burger King, Lee’s Famous Recipe Chicken, Little Mexico, Yummy Japan, The 16th, Circle K, Hometown Food Mart, Kristen’s Cakes & Creations and El Acapulco.

The new tax is the result of the Hodgenville City Council’s April 2025 decision to enact a levy and tax all retail sales of restaurants doing business within city limits. Garnered revenue is required to be utilized to support the Hodgenville Tourism & Convention Commission and its efforts to promote tourism; because the funds are maintained and disbursed by the City of Hodgenville, the city will receive 5% of all tax collections as reimbursement for the cost of collections.

SEE **TAX/PAGE A6**

## Independence Day celebration next weekend

**BY VICTORIA COX**  
EDITOR

Creekfront Park will be the place to be on Saturday, July 5, as Hodgenville celebrates Independence Day. Festivities will begin at 5 p.m. and run until dark, with a firework show finale. The event will have a designated Kids Zone area with bouncy houses and trackless train rides, alongside giveaways and door prizes for those attending. A vendor food truck area will also provide attendees with

a variety of options. Last Call will play live music from 5 to 7 p.m. and classic rock band Old Soul Remedy from 7:30 to 10 p.m., with special guest Kyle Williamson. The fireworks show is scheduled to begin at the conclusion of Old Soul Remedy. The event is co-hosted by the LaRue County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Hodgenville. For questions or more information, call the City at 270-358-3832 or the Chamber at 270-358-3411.



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### OBITUARIES

Jeremy Dunn, 49  
Sharon Kay Hornback, 78

For the latest information, go to [www.laruecountyherald.com](http://www.laruecountyherald.com).

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