



# THE LARUE COUNTY HERALD NEWS

Proudly serving the community of LaRue County since May 6, 1885

JULY 2, 2025

VOLUME 282, NO. 27 · HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY · \$2

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY, JULY 5**  
**Creek Front Park - Hodgenville**

Hosted by the  
**City of Hodgenville and the LaRue County Chamber of Commerce**

Giveaways - Door Prizes

Kids Zone 5-10 p.m.

Vendors Food Trucks

**HUGE FIREWORKS SHOW AT 10 P.M.**

**LIVE MUSIC**  
begins at 5 p.m. Last Call opening for Old Soul Remedy featuring Kyle Williamson

## DENIED, AGAIN

### Fiscal Court overturns 3rd heavy industrial rezoning requests

**BY VICTORIA COX**  
EDITOR

With a 3-1 decision and a packet courtroom, the LaRue County Fiscal Court voted for the third time to overturn two heavy industrial rezoning recommendations.

Gathering in a trial-type public hearing on Thursday, June 26, the meeting referred 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.

SEE **DENIED/PAGE A6**



Photo by Victoria Cox  
**Shelt Lewis, an Elizabethtown attorney who represented TDA Properties and Pence Leasing, presents his opening statement asking the LaRue County Fiscal Court to approve the heavy industrial rezoning requests on Thursday, June 26.**



Submitted photo

## Lynn selected as incoming HES principal

**BY LARUE COUNTY SCHOOLS**

LaRue County Schools is excited to announce the appointment of Tori Lynn as the next Principal of Hodgenville Elementary School (HES). Lynn previously served as the Assistant Principal at Morning-side Elementary School in Elizabethtown.

On her appointment, LaRue County Superintendent Adryanne Warren shared, “Tori has a vision of where she wants to go. Her energy and clarity around what builds a positive and uplifting culture will launch our youngest Hawks into the future with the ingredients for success they need. We look forward to having her join us in the district, especially with her team approach to leadership.”

**“As principal of HES, I’m looking forward to engaging in meaningful work alongside a dedicated staff to support student success.”**

— Tori Lynn  
Hodgenville Elementary principal

SEE **LYNN/PAGE A2**

## ARTICULATING AGRICULTURE

### Telling the untold stories of local producers

**BY VICTORIA COX**  
EDITOR

When Oakes and Kellie Rott bought their first two honey bee colonies, they were unaware of just how much the decision would transform not only their lives, but also the whole community. Seven years later, what began as a hobby has grown into a thriving, multifaceted operation is now home to more than six million bees and rows of native and cut flowers that help produce about 4,000 pounds of honey each year. With elderberries, seed-saving and plans for a certified processing facility, it’s not just about production, but about impact — on health, on the land and on the people they serve.

As someone who’s always felt most comfortable in nature and with his hands in the dirt, Oakes began researching beekeeping on the suggestion of a colleague. He found



Photo by Elaina Janes Photography  
**Oakes Rott, co-owner of Grandview Farm, is pictured at one of the farm’s many honey bee apiaries.**

himself almost immediately intrigued by the idea that his coworker said would never bore his perfectionist personality. After discussing the opportunity with Kellie, the pair decided to go out on a limb and

purchase two honey bee colonies. And, once they’d tasted their first batch of honey, they knew they’d made the right decision.

SEE **AGRICULTURE/PAGE A5**

## Weldon Loop project advances

**BY VICTORIA COX**  
EDITOR

Repairs to Weldon Loop Road in Upton could begin in as little as two months.

The possibility stems from the LaRue County Fiscal Court’s Tuesday, June 24 unanimous approval of a memorandum of agreement between the county and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Through the resolution, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet agrees to provide \$800,000 to fund the reconstruction of approximately 1.425 miles on Weldon Loop, beginning at its intersection at KY-224 (Upton Tally Road) and ending at its intersection with Johnson Road.

Although decreased from



the original \$1.3 million allocated to the project, the difference will be substituted with local in-kind matches from SRM Materials — which has agreed to supply the necessary rock and subgrade materials — and LaRue County — which will haul said materials from SRM’s rock quarry to the construction site.

With the resolution approved and authorization given to LaRue County Judge Executive Blake

Durrett to sign a contract with the state, officials are hopeful the project will begin sooner rather than later. The next step will require an amendment to the county’s Fiscal Year 2026 budget to include the \$800,000 allocation; this cannot be conducted until the budget takes effect on July 1. Per discussion at Tuesday’s meeting, the court will likely conduct a first reading of the amendment at its July 8 meeting

and the second reading and vote at its July 22 meeting. Although a debate to host a special-called meeting to fast-track the amendment did occur, the court chose to keep the original meeting schedule at this time, with the condition that an additional meeting will be held if needed to begin construction.

“Now that we’ve gotten the MOA, I’ve given the green light to the Lincoln Trail Area Development District to finish the corridor plans so that we can get a bid package together,” Durrett said. “We have to go to bid and then we have to get a contractor — all that’s probably going to take until August.”

SEE **PROJECT/PAGE A3**

## Hodgenville celebrates Independence on Saturday

**BY STAFF REPORTS**

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 set to begin at 10 p.m.

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.

Bring your lawn chairs and come enjoy the free public event that has continued to grow each and every year.

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.



### INSIDE

CLASSIFIEDS	<b>B7</b>	OBITUARIES	<b>A3</b>
EDITORIAL	<b>A7</b>	RELIGION	<b>A4</b>
EDUCATION	<b>B3</b>	RECORDS	<b>A2, B5</b>
FARM & HOME	<b>B2</b>	SPORTS	<b>B1, B4</b>

### OBITUARIES

Gary L. Cooper, 72  
Clara Wilma Goff Pottinger, 96  
Paul Waldeck, 42

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

THE LARUE COUNTY HERALD NEWS  
40 SHAWNEE DRIVE · HODGENVILLE, KY 42748  
270-358-3118  
[WWW.LARUECOUNTYHERALD.COM](http://WWW.LARUECOUNTYHERALD.COM)  
**FIND US ON FACEBOOK.**