

Stepping Stones

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CORRESPONDENT

High school is a pivotal moment in every adolescent's life. New experiences emerge; this includes first jobs, entrance exams, athletics, relationships and much more. As a junior, entering senior year of college, I want to encourage you to not limit yourself in your high school career.

If I could go back and have a conversation with my younger self, there would be a few things I would say. First, as cliché as it may seem, do not limit yourself. Expanding on your character can look different for everyone. I encourage you to reach out to employers, share your interests with friends, and join a club that can allow you to showcase your talent and qualities. Oftentimes, we undermine our talents. A common adolescent trend is to shelf talent until someone insists they are worth something. I am here to tell you to push past this common barrier. Explore what interests you. Push the precipice. Self-fulfillment and worth come hand in hand and can often be achieved when we simply pursue the things that make us joyful.

Second, consider where your talents and interests guide you. Would you like to pursue a career that requires a further education, such as college? Or, are you interested in a trade? Or, perhaps you want to start a business? If called to a specific route, consider what it may take to reach your desired career. If you wish to go to college you may wish to enhance your college application, by joining a club, maintaining a decent GPA, and being involved in your school community.

If you wish to pursue a trade school, consider finding a mentor and applying for a co-op program. Everyone's journey will be different, even if you are pursuing a similar career interest. Therefore, diversify yourself, your application and resume, and set aside time to grow mentally and physically. The end and beginning of senior year can be exhilarating and stressful. It is important to remember to take a step back and consider all your options.

Third, hold tight to the good ones. You will encounter thousands of people throughout your life. In the sea of life, you will be introduced to mentors and friends that will change your outlook. So, when you come across healthy friendships, motivating mentors, witty teachers, acknowledge their words and guidance. Connection within your inner circle can lift your spirits and guide you through difficulties. Connections within your school community can insight academic excellence, a shoulder to lean on, and a steady stream of support and advice.

Senior year will be full of new memories. You will experience new milestones that will shape you and your future. I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and spread your wings. I hope that this year treats you well.

STUDENT

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(Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, etc.), messaging apps such as GroupMe, Remind, Band, WhatsApp, etc. or any group chats on any platform not explicitly approved. The new law applies to all K-12 personnel, including teachers, coaches, club sponsors and volunteers.

At the time of SB 181's implementation, the only board approved communication methods with LaRue County students were through the student's district assigned email and district Google Suite account.

Meeting in regular session on Monday, July 21, the Board unanimously approved additional communication platforms. In addition to the two already approved methods, communication may also be sent via ParentSquare, Infinite Campus, SportsYOU and GoGuardian. ECTC students may also receive communications through Blackboard (Anthology), Outlook (via the kctcs.edu domain) and Starfish (EAB). All of the approved platforms allow communications to be archived and reviewed by the district, as required by the law.

According to LaRue County Schools Superintendent Adrienne Warren, the district will be losing access to two previously used communication platforms: Remind and the school messenger used to send out one calls. Utilization of Remind will cease immediately and switch to ParentSquare, while the one call system will be phased out in September.

Although the above listed platforms are the only officially approved methods of communication available, additional methods are available with permission through a waiver process; a separate waiver for each individual student for each teacher/coach/club sponsor is required. It is also

important to note that school staff may communicate with parents and/or guardians using personal methods as long as students are not included in the conversation.

In other board meeting items, action was taken on multiple items regarding the C.H.A.M.P. project.

Began in 2023 as a way to improve the athletic facilities in LaRue County, the Community-Hawks Athletic Modernization Partnership (C.H.A.M.P.) project entailed a complete overhaul of the LaRue County High School stadium. It now features a turf field, a new seven-lane track with provisions for other activities such as long and triple jump, pole vault, discus and shot put, a 60-yard-wide soccer field and retrofitted LED lighting. Upgraded lighting was also installed at the LaRue County Baseball and Softball fields.

Although construction and ultimate completion was prolonged with multiple delays, the presentation of a BG4 — the contract close-out for the project — at last week's meeting signifies the official completion of the project.

Per the document, the undertaking's total cost was \$3,536,264.31. Expenses include \$1,681,819.52 to Oheil Site Solutions, which completed all of the groundwork and track installation; \$755,610.61 to Motz, which installation the turf field; \$939,657.39 for additional equipment, such the upgraded lighting, scoreboard and land surveys; and \$159,176.79 to Ross Tarrant Architects, the project's architect company.

The funding to finance the project was collected from multiple sources. Community donations account for \$393,159.21; donations from the Spirit Pump at Key Oil gas station account for \$28,925.30; turf donations account for \$3,573.42; and capital funds — which may only be used for long-term physical assets — account for \$89,240.33. The remaining \$3,021,366.05 was expended from

the district's general fund.

Although the original project application submitted in Mar. 2024 stated the district would only utilize \$472,070.45 from the general fund and finance the remaining balance through a \$1.83 million bond (i.e. a loan), Jessica Castenir, LCS Director of Finance, said they ultimately did not have to.

"At one point in time, there was discussion that we could bond for it — we had a quorum signed that said, 'If we need bonding, the board could against themselves and bond it,'" she said. "But, once everything was done and everything was moved around ... we had enough in the general fund to pay for it, so we did not have to bond it."

In addition to the project's contract close-out, the board was also asked to approve a final payment to Oheil for \$17,200 and a change order from Sportsfield Specialties, which would credit the district \$18,844.

Following unanimous approval of all three items, Board member Joanna Hinton emphasized those who made it possible.

"I think it's worth publicly recognizing the efforts of how many people went in to this project from the beginning to the end," she said. "For the community leaders, for the people who cared, for the people in the schools, it took the village to make this happen."

The board also approved the surplus of three AED's; the equipment will be replaced by new machines and the surplus items are to be distributed throughout LaRue County by Hodgenville Police Chief James Richardson.

The LaRue County Board of Education will host a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 18 in the LCHS Library to hear public comments regarding the District Facility Plan. The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board will follow the public hearing at 6 p.m.

HAWKS

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overall, missing moving on to the semi-finals by .02 seconds.

According to Coach Jamie Hardin, "To give you an idea of some of the competition that Brock was up against in the event, the winner Dillon Mitchell from Texas, ended up being 1st in the prelims, 1st in the semis and setting a new national record of 10.41 for the age group. He beat the

previous record of 10.49 set in 2017 by Kennedy Lightner (UK standout and Olympic athlete). Dillon, this season, was also an AAU champion, placed 2nd in the USATF U20 championships, placed 5th at NIKE Nationals in Eugene, Oregon, and was 5th as a freshman at the Class 6A state championships in Texas. He will be competing this weekend at the AAU Nationals in Houston, Texas. His best this year is a 10.07, and he will be one to watch in the sport of track and field. He is ranked 6th in the nation for all

age groups."

Delays continued for Shelton due to the weather, not competing in his 400 until after 10 pm on Wednesday. He was seeded 86th out of 95, and finished 87th. This was only his 3rd time running the open 400. And, after spending all day at the track, in the heat and with very little in the way of nutrition due to all the schedule changes, his 56.07 was a respectable effort.

Scout Patrick kicked off the events for Thursday beginning with her long jump. Schedule

changes made being prepared for the events difficult as you get warmed up only to be told that there would be delays again due to the heat, according to Hardin. She finished 50th out of 93 with a jump of 16' 2 ½". The young lady that won the event jumped 20' ¼", with the top 8 girls jumping over 18' 10 ½". Kya Crooke out of Indiana is ranked 27th nationally, is committed to compete at the University of Arizona, won the Midwest Meet of Champions and is the Indiana State Champion with a jump of 20'4 ¾".

Patrick concluded the competition for the Hawks on Friday with the triple jump. She placed 27th out of 72 with a jump of 35' 10 ¾", her season best. She was just a few inches off of her PR of 36'3". The winner of the event, Laine McKenzie out of Duvall, Washington, had a jump of 41'05". The top 8 girls in this division had jumps over 40'.

Hardin stated, "I am very proud of our athletes and look forward to watching them this fall in their other events. Next, track season looks very promising for each of them."

CHASE

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punishable by between five to 10 years in prison; and first-degree wanton endangerment is a Class D, punishable by between one to five years in prison, per charge. Patel could face more than 50 years in prison if sentenced to the maximum penalty for all charges.

An arrest warrant from the indictment was issued with a \$25,000 cash-only bond, plus conditions; Patel's arraignment is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 4.

The grand jury also returned three indictments related to child abuse.

According to the arrest citation, the Hodgenville Police Department opened a case for possible child abuse in Oct. 2024 after being notified by Norton's Children Hospital that an infant had suffered a near-fatal injury that was "diagnostic of inflicted child physical abuse." Investigation revealed the child was in the care of **Robert Paele**, 34 of Hodgenville, **Kristina Snook**, 29 of Hodgenville, and **Thomas Key**, 33 of Lebanon, TN. A second child in the home also tested positive for illegal drugs.

With the indictments stating Paele, Snook and Key either worked alone or in concert with one another, the grand jury returned two charges each of first-degree criminal abuse — child 12 or under (complicity) and three charges each of endangering the welfare of a minor (complicity).

An arrest warrant from the indictment with a \$15,000 cash-only bond, plus conditions, was issued for all three individuals.

Other indictments returned by the LaRue County Grand Jury in July include:

- **J o r d a n McGaughey**, 29 of Pleasureville. First-degree criminal mischief, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs (first offense), operating a motor vehicle with operator's license revoked/suspended/cancelled/denied, resisting arrest, driving too fast for traffic conditions, reckless driving, failure to be in possession of operator's license and/or show operator's license on demand and first-degree persistent felony offender. Bond is \$9,500 cash-only, plus conditions; warrant on indictment issued.

- **Selina King**, 24 of Hodgenville. Theft of identity (complicity), theft of mail matter (complicity), two charges of theft by unlawful taking property valued more than \$500 but less than \$1,000 (complicity), two charges of theft by unlawful taking property valued under \$500 (complicity), illegal use/possession of drug paraphernalia (complicity) and possession of marijuana (complicity). Bond is the as in District Court case; criminal summons issued.

- **Braden King**, 23 of Hodgenville. Theft of identity (complicity), theft of mail matter (complicity), two charges of theft by unlawful taking property valued more than \$500 but less than \$1,000 (complicity), two charges of theft

by unlawful taking property valued under \$500 (complicity), illegal use/possession of drug paraphernalia (complicity) and possession of marijuana (complicity). Bond is the as in District Court case; criminal summons issued.

- **James Hoback**, 40 of Hodgenville. First-degree wanton endangerment, first-degree unlawful imprisonment, intimidating a participant in the legal process, fourth-degree assault — domestic (minor injury), third-degree terroristic threatening, second-degree criminal mischief and first-degree persistent felony offender. Bond is \$9,500 cash-only, plus conditions; warrant on indictment issued.

- **Keith Riggs**, 48 of Upton. Possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (second offense; methamphetamine), illegal use/possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance not in original container and first-degree persistent felony offender. Bond is \$25,000 cash-only, plus conditions; warrant on indictment issued.

- **Dakota Taylor**, 29 of Hodgenville. First-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) (gun enhanced), receiving stolen property under \$500 (gun enhanced), second-degree possession of a controlled substance (unspecified), illegal use/possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. Bond is \$9,500 cash-only, plus conditions; warrant on indictment issued.

- **Chad Underwood**, 48 of Hodgenville. First-degree possession of a controlled substance (second offense; methamphetamine), illegal use/possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. Bond is \$5,000 cash-only, plus conditions; warrant on indictment issued.

- **Larry Smith**, 71 of Hodgenville. Second-degree terroristic threatening, first-degree disorderly conduct and alcohol intoxication in a public place. Bond is \$5,000 cash-only, plus conditions; warrant on indictment issued.

- **Kristopher Bundy**, 30 of Campbellsville. First-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and illegal use/possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond is \$5,000 cash-only, plus conditions; warrant on indictment issued.

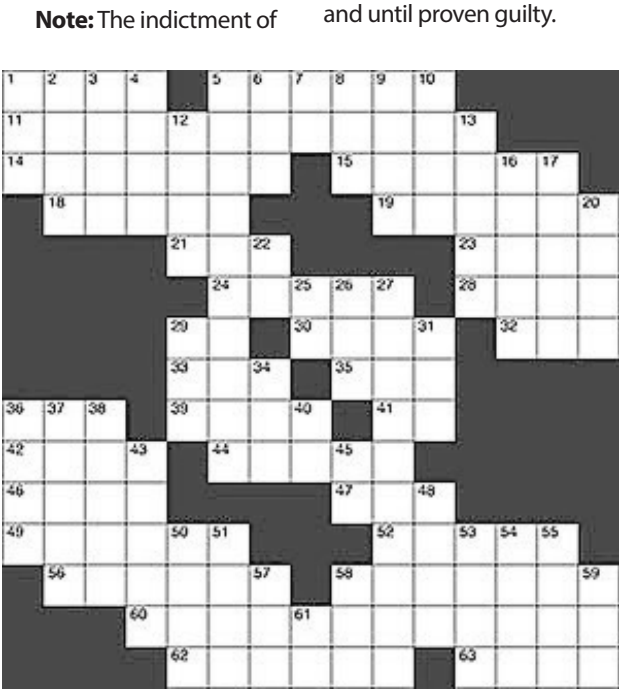
- **Tammy Coleman**, 54 of Radcliff. Theft by unlawful taking property valued more than \$1,000 but less than \$10,000 (automobile) and first-degree criminal mischief. Bond is \$5,000 cash-only, plus conditions; warrant on indictment issued.

- **Patricia Vandeboss**, 43 of Mt. Sherman. First-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and illegal use/possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond to be set at arraignment; criminal summons issued.

- **Angela Moore**, 42 of Upton. First-degree criminal mischief (residential rental property). Bond is \$5,000 cash-only, plus conditions; warrant on indictment issued.

- **Stephne Jessie**, 40 of Bardstown. Second-de-

gree assault. Bond is \$9,500 cash-only, plus conditions; warrant on indictment issued.



CLUES ACROSS

- Popular potato snack
- Guards the Pyramids
- Furnish anew
- Herb
- Preoccupy the mind continually
- The lowest adult male singing voice
- NATO commander (abbr.)
- A major division of geological time
- New Zealand parrot
- Notions
- Lump in yarn
- Indicates position
- Lose hold of
- Hindu honorific
- Former OSS
- Electronic data processing
- Cost per mile
- Snake-like fish
- They start the alphabet
- Taylor Swift's tour
- Intermediate ecological stage
- Scarlett's home
- Of he
- Ohio city
- Breakfast item
- An evening party
- ___ Falls
- Linked together
- Mythological spirits
- Small Eurasian deer

CLUES DOWN

- Earliest human form: ___-Magnon man

a person by a grand jury or otherwise is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

- Flavoring
- Notion
- Bundy and Fenwick are two
- Qualities of sound
- One who gets paid
- Expresses surprise
- O.J. trial judge
- Pointed ends of pens
- Shield bugs genus
- Container for shipping
- Upper body parts
- Closes tightly
- Nigerian World Heritage Site
- Volcanic island in Fiji
- Commercial
- ___: denotes past
- They ___
- Confraternities
- A way to gain a point
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Brew
- Badgers group
- Sailing boat
- ___ Polo, explorer
- Elder citizen (abbr.)
- Frankish law code
- Exclamation of surprise
- Groan
- It presses clothing
- Do not allow
- Gelatinous substance
- Common Japanese surname
- Present in nature
- Electronic countermeasures
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- Commercials
- News agency