Report

From page 1A

popping proud for two reasons: Augusta Elementary went from red in 2023-24 to orange, and the middle school soared from orange to green.

"They've just continued to teach the standards, focus on the standards and just continue to push those kids with increased student engagement and just fast-paced lessons," Kelsch said. "The work they've put in from last year this year (is) just a testament to them, those teachers, and their planning, their hard work, their attention to detail ... them working together to identify gap areas and specifically targeting those."

Hart maybe could've talked all day about his school going from slightly below average to significantly above average.

"Here at Fleming County High School, over the past three or four years, we really tried to focus on the individual student," Hart said. "We do student surveys two or three times a year, and after those surveys, we take the data, and then we do student interviews."

Aaron Massey is Robertson County's assistant superintendent. He said the first thing to do was identify what was wrong; he compiled a list of 20 surrounding districts of similar size and demographics.

"We identified that math was one of the glaring issues for last year, so we started to implement more math enrichment, looked at the overall instruction of the math and the material and the standards," Massey said, "and we started to get the standards realigned, started to implement the new materials and the resources and provide the students with extra coursework.

"And some, we provide them with after-hours (coursework). The in-class instruction was rearranged to help make them successful," said Massey.

Massey also said adding supplemental resources "to push our students to get to where we need them to be."

One hundred percent of Robertson County's high school seniors graduated in 2025 and 98.8% received diplomas in 2024.

Massey also said post-secondary career and education readiness has been consistently strong. "We're fortunate to have endowments that allow us to provide college classes (through Maysville Community and Technical College) to our students; as long as they get a C or better, it's paid for," he said.

About 20-30 Robertson County students attend Mason County Career Magnet School on Tucker Drive in Maysville.

"Robertson County is one of the four schools in the area that send students to us (Mason County, Bracken County and Augusta Independent are the others), and they have students that are involved in in all six of our programs," Magnet School Principal Andrew Matheny said. "We have welding, automotive, machine tool, construction, industrial maintenance and health science here.

"... And part of our job as a state-run career technical education center is to help our students attain industry certifications and dual-credit courses through Maysville Community and Technical College, which are used for some of the state accountability purposes at our sending schools."

Fleming County conducted small-group interviews with all 700 students. "So a lot of the time they just want to feel heard," Hart said.

Teachers then shared the results with students and created 30-, 60- and 90-day plans. Hart said one thing students wanted was to have Friday mentoring sessions with teachers they chose.

Another thing Fleming County did was to institute a system in which students could work on dual-credit, enrichment or life skills. Hart said teacher retention was an extra benefit.

"Over the past two or three years, and it really showed last year, we didn't replace any teachers," Hart said. "There were some teachers that moved around in the school, but we didn't have to hire any new teachers."

More rigor, better results

In Lewis County, the elementary and middle schools remained yellow, and high school stayed at green.

In Mason County, Straub Elementary moved from yellow to orange, the middle school went from orange to yellow, and the high school stayed at yellow.

Mason County Superintendent Rick Ross wrote in an email Thursday that the district is "pleased that no school is currently identified as TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement, a designation for schools with one or more student subgroups that consistently perform as poorly as the bottom 5% of schools in the state)."

"Our elementaries were able to shed this classification by improving the performance of students with IEPs (Individualized Education Programs)," Ross wrote.

Ross also wrote that the district's 29 career pathway choices, the $500,000 families save in tuition via early college, and more than 30 extracurricular opportunities are not necessarily reflected in the state's current accountability system.

"Our focus continues to be ensuring every elementary-aged student is a strong reader and can perform the math they will need in life," he wrote. "Middle and High School will continue to prioritize both academics and student opportunities ... Our schools understand the need to continue the rigorous math, reading, science, and social studies curriculum implementation, which we began districtwide last year."

Fleming County elementary schools stayed at orange, and the middle school went from green to yellow. Bracken County Elementary moved from orange to yellow, and the middle and high school went from green to yellow.

Jessica Murrell, who teaches third-, fourth- and fifth-graders at Robertson County, is as proud as any high school educator.

"My students move on to middle school, where they have a completely different teacher, but he does a phenomenal job, and then they move on to that high school level," Murrell said. "And just to see them move from one person or teacher to the next, and to keep up with the high level that it takes in all content areas, but especially the science area, (that) is just particularly important to me."

DATEBOOK

SATURDAY, NOV. 29

SHANNON GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER AND AUCTION — Shannon Global Methodist Church Annual Chili Supper and Auction, Mays'Lick Fire Dept. 5:30 chili and soup supper, 6:30 p.m. homemade baked goods and craft auction.

ONCE UPON A CHRISTMAS — 6 p.m., Hickory Grove Christian Holiness Church, benefit concert for lend a helping hand pantry.

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SUNDAY, NOV. 30

FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT — 3 p.m., The Orangeburg Methodist Church, 7119 Orangeburg Rd. Maysville. Performed by the Orangeburg Community Choir.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 5

TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS PARADE — 6:30 p.m., Downtown Historic District

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SATURDAY, DEC. 6

RUSSELL THEATRE PRESENTS — 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., White Christmas.

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SUNDAY, DEC. 7

RUSSELL THEATRE PRESENTS — 2 p.m., White Christmas.

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TUESDAY, DEC. 9

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Ewing Road, Deer Lick Road, Junction Road, Days Mill Road, Harris Lane and Maxey Flat.

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Morehead Road, Muses Mill Road, Logan Lane and Seacrest Crossing.

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THURSDAY, DEC. 11

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Perkins Lane, Hillside Drive, Mount Carmel Road, Logan Run Road and Harn Road.

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY CHRISTMAS SOCIAL — 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., live music, door prizes, hot chocolate and cookies, all ages welcome, free event, RSVP at 606-845-7851, dress accordingly.

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SUNDAY, DEC. 14

SHEPHERD'S HOUSE CHRISTMAS GALA — 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Harriett Groh and Mike Huff will be singing with entertainment for the whole family, come celebrate "The Reason for the Season."

SEDDON GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH — "A Child is Born" Christmas musical, 6 p.m., refreshments served following performance, 1317 Forest Avenue (corner of Forest and Broadway).

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TUESDAY, DEC. 16

OWL CLUB MEETING — 6:30 p.m., DeSha's.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 19

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Poplar Grove Road, Turner Road, Springdale Drive and Cherry Grove Road.

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SUNDAY, DEC. 21

LIMESTONE CHORALE HOLIDAY CONCERT — 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church.

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TUESDAY, DEC. 23

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Beechburg Road, Garrett Road, Pleasant Valley Road, Burtonville Road and Foxport Road.

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TUESDAY, JAN. 13

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Ewing Road, Deer Lick Road, Junction Road, Days Mill Road, Harris Lane and Maxey Flat.

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Morehead Road, Muses Mill Road, Logan Lane and Seacrest Crossing.

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THURSDAY, JAN. 15

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Perkins Lane, Hillside Drive, Mount Carmel Road, Logan Run Road and Harn Road.

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TUESDAY, JAN. 27

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Poplar Grove Road, Turner Road and Springdale Drive.

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Turner Road and Cherry Grove Road.

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THURSDAY, JAN. 29

FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE — stops at Beechburg Road, Garrett Road, Pleasant Valley Road, Beechy Creek Road, Burtonville Road and Foxport Road.

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MISC.

ABERDEEN COUNCIL — 6:30 p.m., third Thursday of the month, council room, Aberdeen, Ohio.

ALL THINGS MAYSVILLE — Every Tuesday, 1-2:30 p.m., Ron Bailey. Kentucky Gateway Museum Center.

ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUP — 5:30 p.m., St. Paul Trinity Apartments, 665 Kenton Station Road, Maysville.

AUGUSTA LODGE NO. 80 F&AM — First Saturday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the lodge, 128 Main Street, Second Floor, Augusta.

AUGUSTA CITY COUNCIL — 6:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:

— AA, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Germantown Community Center.

— AL-ANON, 10:30 a.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 26 West Third Street, Maysville.

— AL-ANON, 7 p.m., Thursdays, New Creation Praise and Worship Center, 1431 Helena Road in Flemingsburg, call Wilma 606-798-5555.

— New Beginnings Group, Thursdays, 7-8 p.m., Hunter House 31 East Third Street, Maysville.

— West Union, Tuesdays and Fridays, Catholic Church, 612 Mulberry Street, 7:30 p.m.

— Nobody's Fault but Mine group, Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Manchester, Ohio, Pike and Fifth Street, Community Building.

— West Union, Sundays, 10 a.m., The Counseling Center Group Room, Adams Lake, 829 E. Walnut Street.

— Ripley's Miracles, Thursdays, 7 p.m., Beebe Chapel, 438 Main Street, Ripley, Ohio. limited seating.

BRACKEN COUNTY FISCAL COURT — 10 a.m., second and fourth Wednesday every month.

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News
Story ideas, news tips, etc., should be called in to the newsroom between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Call 564-9091.

Delivery Problems
Circulation Customer Service: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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The Ledger Independent welcomes and encourages comments from its readers on a wide variety of local, regional state, national and international issues. Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and mailed to the Editor, The Ledger Independent, 120 Limestone St., Maysville, KY 41056. We welcome comments 24/7 at 606-564-9091 x 1251. Please speak slowly and clearly when leaving a comment.
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Subscriptions
Periodical postage paid at Maysville, KY. I understand that delivery and billing will continue beyond the initial order period unless I contact the newspaper at 564-9091. Rates may change after introductory offer period. Subscription rates are subject to change.

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Ads that require color, proofs or special camera work require an additional 24 hours added to the above deadline.

Send your letter to us by Monday, December 1, 2025

Don't forget to include your name and age on the letter.

THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT *annual* Holiday Greetings Section *will publish on* *Saturday, December 13, 2025*

e-mail your letter to:

Attention: Santa's Mailbox

SantaLedgerLetters@cmpapers.com

Letters are email only this year