

4-H

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“They are very rooted in our 4-H program, they hold leadership roles in our Middlesboro 4-H Club, they’re very active in a lot of our fundraising efforts and also when we do citywide clean-ups they are the first ones there,” he said. “I’m very proud of them and just wanted to recognize them.”

Each of the students participated in the Bell County Fair and did well enough to move on to the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville. They all submitted entries in art, photography or other areas and also participated in the Country Ham project. Good said that project involves learning how to cure and clean a ham and present a speech in front of a panel of judges.

“They went up to the State Fair and did a great job giving a public speech in front of a panel,” Good said. “It got them out of their comfort zone a little bit and they were tremendous.”

McDonald, Bisceglia and Baker all earned blue ribbons for their Country Ham project entries and speeches at the State Fair.

“As a school system you all should be extremely proud of the young students you are bringing up and the families that are raising them,” Good said. “We go to places like camp or the State Fair and there are some counties that are absolutely tearing the place apart, but with Bell County I never

have issues. Congratulations on what you guys are doing. I’m extremely proud of them and you all should be too.”

Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Jamie Johnson shared some outstanding attendance numbers during her report to the board. District-wide attendance was over 94 percent over the first month of school and was over 96 percent with another week to go in the second month.

“Year to date the high school is at 93.05 percent attendance, the middle school is at 94.47 percent and the elementary is at 94.72,” she said. “Last week we had some really high numbers, I don’t think we went below 95. There’s a lot of good competition, the middle school won month one and we’re sharing emails on a weekly basis to see who is in the lead.”

She added that each of the schools had tightened up their systems and credited the attendance teams for their efforts in relationship mapping and goal-setting for the strong numbers.

Board member Joyce Hoskins pointed out the strong attendance during board member communications at the start of the meeting.

“Besides the high-attendance day, attendance thus far has been miraculous,” Board Chair Teresa Brown added.

During his report, Superintendent Bill Jones said things were going well at all of the schools in the

district.

“I’ve been to all of the schools, people are working hard, it seems like morale is good and everybody is giving it their best shot,” he said.

MHS Principal Jesse Allen, MES Principal Cindy Porter and MMS Principal Erica Arnette all gave an update on the events and progress being made at their prospective schools during Tuesday’s meeting.

The board also approved revising their policy on curriculum and instruction 08.2211 regarding honors and awards. Brown explained that the change will mean Middlesboro High School will have only one valedictorian and one salutatorian starting with the 2028-29 school year.

“We need one top person in each of those categories. It makes you work harder to keep that grade point average up and get that distinction at graduation. It’s something the board has been concerned about for many years,” she said. “We’re starting with this year’s freshman group so that by the time they’re ready to be seniors we’ll be ready to institute that. It wouldn’t be fair to the kids who are already sophomores and have been working towards that to change it for them.”

The change was approved by a vote of 5-0.

MHS

Continued from 1A

(qualified) , M60 machine gun (qualified).

Bill is married to Mable Sue Smith for 21 years and has two daughters from his first wife; Lisa Ann Smith Earnest and Nita Jean Smith; two stepdaughters Dena Ballenger and Toya Ballenger, one stepson Haylanne Ballenger; nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

He’s been a city council member since 2018.

Special note: Bill and his Vietnam combat unit, 1st Squadron 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division is honored to be featured on a US postage stamp.”

Veterans honored during Friday’s Veteran’s Bowl:

Cpt. Mike Spradlin — U.S. Air Force, Army (ret.)

SFC Hershell Earnest — U.S. Army (ret.)

Cpl. Thomas Bates — U.S. Marine Corps

Sgt. Kenneth Noss — U.S. Army

Spc. Keven Bruner — U.S. Army

Sgt. Ricky Washington — U.S. Air Force

SSgt. Jake Brock — U.S. Air Force

Sgt. Jim Sumpter — U.S. Army

Bill Dean — Civil Defense

Sp/4 Greg Buell — 21st MPCo

(Ft. Bragg)

Samuel R. Coleman — U.S. Marine Corps

SSgt. Alexander Schultheis — Ky. National Guard

TSgt. Milton Ghiglioti — U.S. Air Force

Marion Lawson — U.S. Army

William R. Smith — U.S. Army

Iva W.E. Hamblin — U.S. Army

Orville Lawson — U.S. Army

E.R. “Mammaw” Gulley — U.S. Army

Robert Lawton — U.S. Marine Corps

Sgt. Brian Gibson — U.S. Army

Sgt. Derrick Mink — U.S. Army

Lawrence Buell — U.S. Marine Corps

Josh DeLauer — Army National Guard

Don Emmett — Air Force

Bobby Johnson — U.S. Navy

Wayne Bayless — U.S. Army

SGM. Chris Jackson — U.S. Army

Tommy Allen — U.S. Army

Jessica Allen — U.S. Army

Barry D. Tanner — U.S. Air Force

Tommy Johnson — U.S. Army

Larry Adkins — National Guard

Sean Adkins — National Guard

Nita Smith — U.S. Air Force

Kenny Rains — U.S. Air Force

Stephen Fuson — U.S. Marine Corps/Army

Patrick Fuson — U.S. Navy

Bill Jones — U.S. Army (Ret.)

William Short — U.S. Army

Brian Coots — U.S. Marine Corps

Mike Downney — U.S. Navy

Cecil Partin — U.S. Navy

Nikki Osborne — U.S. Air Force

Sgt. Jim England — Army National Guard

Matthew Shackelford — U.S. Marine Corps

Devin Hoskins — Army National Guard

Brian Good — U.S. Army

Scott Earl — U.S. Air Force

Junior Emmett — U.S. Army

Joe Lashly — U.S. Army

John Clevenger — U.S. Navy

Jim Davis — U.S. Air Force

Cordell Tolliver — U.S. Air Force

Sam Bayless — U.S. Army

Bucky Harris — U.S. Navy/Air Force

Chris Bussen — U.S. Army

Brad Vandy — Army National Guard

Ben Spurlock — U.S. Navy

Jerry Collins — U.S. Army

Brad Good — U.S. Army

Denise Stafford — U.S. Army

John Trosper — Ky. National Guard

Justin Miracle — U.S. Air Force

Larry Kyle — Ky. National Guard

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Appalachian WIRELESS

NEW

Continued from 1A

and one aide can handle a class of up to 20 pre-schoolers.

He said the only cost to the district was roughly \$80,000 to cover the salaries for the teacher and the aide.

Jonathan Defevers told the board the district would receive about \$30,000 in state funds for the four-year-olds but there was no funding for three-year-olds.

The board also approved the creation of a new virtual school teacher position. Defevers said there were currently 43 students enrolled in the district’s virtual academy with two others pending acceptance. He said the KDE didn’t have any concerns about the number of students attending virtually other than the district keeping the same 32:1 student to teacher ratio in place at the high school.

Crawford presented awards as he recognized members of the Page Junior Beta Club and students at Frakes who participated in the National History Day Competition during Wednesday’s meeting.

Annlee Bennett, of Page, was the On-Site Cake Decorating champion at the Elementary Junior Beta Club state convention and placed second at the national convention. She was also recognized as the state champion in the National History Day competition in the Elementary Group

Exhibit and for advancing to nationals.

Ellie Humfleet, of Page, placed second in Mixed Media at the Junior Beta Club state convention.

Zara Stewart, of Page, was the Junior Beta Club state convention champion and national convention champion in 7th Grade Language Arts.

Connor Goodin, of Page, was the Junior Beta Club state convention champion in 7th Grade Science and placed fourth in Recyclable Art.

Dylan Young, of Page, placed fifth in Sculpture at the Junior Beta Club State Convention.

Mia McCullough and Ava Partin, of Frakes, were recognized for being national participants in the National History Day competition in Junior Website Design.

Stewart, Goodin and Young present to receive their awards during the meeting.

The board also discussed adding the resurfacing of the track and moving the sand pits for the long jump and triple jump from behind the north end zone over to the visitor’s sideline to the planned project to replace the turf on the football field.

“The track needs to be resurfaced, it’s in bad shape,” Crawford said. “The other change would be to move those event pits over next to the visitor’s side bleachers and turf that ‘d-zone’ behind the end zone.”

He said the cost of resurfacing the field was \$750,000 and the con-

tractors were planning to start on that project as soon as football season is finished in either late November or early December. The cost for resurfacing the track would be \$452,715 and the cost of moving the jump pits would be \$249,700.

Board member Larry Elliott made a motion to table a vote on the additions to the project to give them more time to research it.

Board member Chris Wagner disagreed. He said now was the time to make those changes while work on the field was being done and left the meeting.

“There’s no urgency to do this right now,” Elliott said. The motion to table a vote on the changes until next month was approved 4-1.

The board also discussed possible construction projects at Bell County High School and Bell Central.

“Bell Central is the bathrooms, kitchen and ceiling tile. Bell High is painting, windows, work on the locker rooms and the addition of storage rooms at the gym and the library,” Crawford said.

The board also discussed getting new bleachers for the gym at BCHS.

They will meet in a work session on September 30 to go over each line item of the project and determine which of them can be done by school staff or sublet and which need to be included for bids by a contractor.

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Saturday, October 4, 2025 • 9:30 a.m.

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