

Cattlemen’s ribeye drive thru May 2

Are you craving a Cattlemen’s ribeye sandwich? If so the Montgomery County Cattlemen’s Association is now taking orders to be picked up Friday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You may place an order for a ribeye steak sandwich, chips and an Ale-8 or water by calling **859-498-8733**. To help us plan, please call in your order by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 1.

When you call just leave your name, phone number, number of orders, number of Ale 8’s or waters per order and the approximate time you will pick up your order. Orders can only be picked up between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. May 2 at the Montgomery County Extension Annex Garage located at 153 S. Maysville St. Follow the signs. Orders will be brought to your car when you drive up. The cost per order is \$10. Cash or card. Don’t miss

out on this chance to get a Montgomery County Cattlemen’s Association ribeye sandwich!

2025 MONTGOMERY COUNTY CAIP COST-SHARE SIGNUPS HAVE BEGUN

The Montgomery County Conservation District is taking applications for the 2025 Montgomery County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP Cost-Share Program). This program is to assist Montgomery County farmers in making important farm investments. Applications are available at the Montgomery County Conservation District Office located at 502 Wilmont Drive in Mt. Sterling. The office hours are Monday–Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eligible Cost-Share Investment Areas include: Agricultural Diversification; Large Animal-Small

Animal; Farm Infrastructure; Fencing and On-Farm Water; Forage and Grain Improvement; Innovative Ag Systems; On-Farm Energy; Poultry and Other Fowl; Ag Tech and Leadership Development; Value Added and Marketing. The application period began Monday, April 28th and the deadline to apply will be Friday, May 16th. All applications will be scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. For more information and questions contact: Nancy Montgomery at **859-498-5487 ext. 2021** or email: **mccdky@gmail.com**. Eligible Cost-Share Investment Areas can be researched at **https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/2025-Program-Guidelines-and-Applications.html**.

2025 MONTGOMERY

COUNTY FARMERS’ MARKET VENDOR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE


The 2025 Montgomery County Farmers’ Market Vendor Applications are now available at the Montgomery County Extension Office. If you plan to be a vendor at the this year’s market, you must complete and submit the application and fees along with copies of any permits, certificates and licenses that you have obtained, enabling you to legally sell special items or give processed samples of products. Please submit all of these items to the Montgomery County Extension Office by the deadline of June 1.

DON’T FORGET A BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAM

The spring breeding season is here and hopefully your herd is prepared. One key man-



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
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Extension Notes

extension.ca.uky.edu/Montgomery

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

GARY HAMILTON
Montgomery County Extension Office

agement tool we can use to reduce the risk of pregnancy failures is getting a breeding soundness examination in your bulls. A breeding soundness examination is done by a veterinarian, costs \$50-100, and is a producer’s only method to assess the breeding capability of their herd sire(s). Breeding soundness exams accurately determine bulls who cannot produce normal sperm cells and bulls who are no longer capable of breeding cows due to injury or a physical ailment. Breeding soundness exams should be done about 30-45 days before the breeding

season to allow enough time to purchase a replacement bull. If you haven’t gotten your bulls checked yet, call your herd veterinarian and set up an appointment. Breeding soundness exams are like an “insurance policy” on your bull. It costs a little money, but you can’t afford the risk of turning out an infertile bull. *Source: Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky.*

School board approves across board pay raises

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate
writer

The Montgomery County Board of Education took another step in its recruitment and retention efforts, approving a 4 percent across-the-board pay raise for employees at its regular meeting April 22.

The board is expected to receive a request for targeted raises for employees in hard to fill positions, Superintendent Matt Thompson also announced.

“One of the greatest things we can do to ensure high levels of student learning is to provide high-quality, caring adults to work with our students every day,” Thompson added.

He called this Phase 2 of the district’s recruitment and retention efforts.

Thompson said the district normally doesn’t approve pay raises until the board approves the salary schedule in May, but the district wanted to go ahead and let everyone know it has been approved for next year.

With the 4 percent raise

for next year, Thompson said this means that over the past seven years the district has provided raises of at least 15 percent for certified staff and at least 18 percent for classified staff.

“When you consider the 4 percent raise for next year combined with the 5 percent raise from this year, we will have invested over \$2 million in our staff in just the past two years to help provide the absolute best teachers and staff working with out students,” he said.

At the meeting, the board also agreed to provide five district meals for staff from school cafeterias throughout the school year (one per quarter and also Thanksgiving).

Thompson noted that these steps are in addition to other initiatives already approved at the March meeting, which included:

- Teacher directed planning day before the first student day of the school year
- Free after-school childcare for staff during the school year

- Removing the cap on prior year, approved experience from similar jobs for classified staff

- Authorizing one-time classified employee prior experience review.

Thompson said these initiatives for next year are layered to the initiatives approved by the board over the past few years, which include:

- Providing up to \$3,000 in reimbursement for out-of-pockets costs for certified rank change programs.
- Providing \$8,000 sign-on and retention stipends for MSD (Moderate and Severe Disabilities) teachers.

- Covering the cost of enrollment in direct certification programs for employees being hired to fill approved special education certified positions.

- Increased the number of personal days to three.

- Revising the salary schedule to include half-rank, pay increases.

This encourages employees to pursue advanced training by offering them half the next pay increase once they complete half the re-

quirements.

- Providing a \$1,000 one-time stipend to all staff in 2021-2022 for COVID related duties.

- Providing a \$1,000 one-time stipend to all staff in 2023-2024 for Recruitment and Retention Stipend.

- Providing \$500 in December 2024 to all staff for a bonus.

- Providing the Eastern Kentucky University Advantage program to all staff, which allows employees a reduced tuition rate.

- Providing access to Homes for Heroes, which provides savings on costs when you buy or sell a home.

- Providing discounts to many local businesses for Montgomery County employees.

“It is a great time to be in Montgomery County Schools,” Thompson said. “None of these things would have been possible without the strong financial stewardship of our current and recent Board of Education.”

Jim Grayson, president of the Montgomery County Education Association, touched on the issue when he spoke to the board at the meeting.

Grayson, a high school English teacher, told the board teachers appreciate the efforts, but are con-

cerned about a growing crisis facing education.

Grayson noted funding for higher education is being cut and local schools could face the same fate from the state Legislature.

He encouraged the board to protect spending that supports academic and athletic excellence.

“Our students are worthy of our investment in the future,” Grayson said.

In other action, the board:

- Approved May 1 staffing allocations, which do not include additional positions requested during the board/Site Based Decision Making Council roundtable sessions.

Thompson said those requests will be considered in conjunction with the approval of the overall district budget in May.

- Approved a curriculum purchase, which in-

cludes an additional kindergarten through third grade reading program, K-5 math program and second through fourth grade handwriting programs.

All of these were needed to meet recent legislative changes and will cost approximately \$400,000, Thompson said.

- Approved national trips for the FBLA and FCCLA including transportation.

- Approved a public hearing report from the Local Planning Committee regarding the District Facilities Plan.

The board will meet again in regular session 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, at the Clay Community Center. Meeting are open to the public.

Due to space constraints, the school spotlight and school recognitions will appear in an upcoming issue of the Advocate.

Local man facing multiple charges after alleged assault

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate
writer

A Mt. Sterling man was arrested April 20 after allegedly assaulting a woman, holding her against her will and spitting on a sheriff’s deputy, according to the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office

Joshua W. Mobley, 31, was charged with second-degree assault-domestic violence, first-degree unlawful imprisonment, third-degree assault of a peace officer-communicable bodily fluid, third-degree terroristic threatening, menacing and interfering with communications.

An additional charge was filed for distribution of sexually explicit images without consent, first offense, after the initial investigation.

He was lodged in the Montgomery County Regional Jail.

Sheriff’s Deputy Troyal Cox states in a uniform citation he was dispatched to 4500 Owingsville Road about

1:10 a.m. in reference to a welfare check stemming from a reported domestic incident.

Upon arrival, no residents were home, the citation claims.

Cox claims in the citation he was then able to locate the reported victim and was able to get a statement of what allegedly occurred.

The woman was allegedly covered with bruising and marks. Approximately 10 places were reportedly documented as bruised and injured, the citation claims.

The female reportedly had a large swollen

bruised area on the left side of her face around the eye, the citation claims.

The victim also reportedly had numerous lumps on the back of her head where she stated she was allegedly struck, according to the citation.

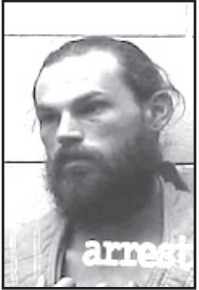
The victim complained of reported dizziness and extreme pain even hours after the incident allegedly occurred, the citation claims.

The reported domestic incident originated April 19 at approximately 3 to 4 a.m., according to the citation.

The victim alleged she was awakened by the suspect who she claims went through her phone and began assaulting her, the citation said.

The victim stated the suspect allegedly assaulted her in waves and approximately every 30 minutes to an hour he would do it again, the

See **MOBLEY**, Page A7



Joshua Mobley



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