



SPORTS

THE YOUNG LADY COLONELS' SEASON ENDS IN THE FIRST ROUND OF REGIONALS

PAGE B1

The Oldham Era

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 • OLDHAMERA.COM • OLDHAM COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER • \$2 • VOLUME 149 • ISSUE 11

Council discusses reducing compensation tax

Public hearing, second reading planned for April 7

BY GRANT GERSTNER
EDITOR

LA GRANGE — An ordinance that, if passed, would reduce the 1% compensation tax for those who work within city limits to .75% starting July 1, 2025, had its first reading at the recent La Grange City Council meeting.

The original compensation tax ordinance, passed in August 2013, limited use of collected revenue to paying off millions in debt service to the Oldham

Reserve business and lifestyle park. The ordinance was later amended in December 2022, extending the tax indefinitely and allocating half of the collected funds from businesses and organizations within Oldham Reserve boundaries to the Oldham County Fiscal Court while setting aside more funds to sundry infrastructure, public works and economic development projects in the city.

In response to the first reading on March 3, 2025, La Grange Mayor John Black said that “there’s been no analysis as to what impact this will have on our city budget” and suggested that the Budget Building and Finance Committee — composed of

“There’s 15% or less of residents of this city working in the city — if we’re going to give a tax break, I would just as soon give it to every citizen that owns property in this whole city ...”

— John Black
La Grange mayor

councilors Joe Davenport, Trey Kamer and Laura Taylor — conduct said analysis.

Councilor Jason Taylor responded that, on Feb. 11, “Laura Taylor brought this ordinance in its initial form to the ordinance committee. The following day, the budget committee was supposed to meet and, interestingly enough, they cancelled the meeting — I don’t know why, but they’ve had a month to talk about it and they didn’t even have a meeting ...”

Councilor Jason Kinser added: “I don’t know that it’s an income issue as much as it’s a spending issue — it seems like the City of La Grange keeps buying more and more things.” When Black asked Kinser to name which expenditures he didn’t

think were proper, Kinser mentioned the nearly complete new La Grange Tourism office building at 309 W Main St. and the Oldham’s Public Bus.

Councilor Lucy Ricketts began to defend the expense of the Oldham’s Public Bus before Black curtailed discussion of the overall budget, adding that “there’s 15% or less of residents of this city working in the city — if we’re going to give a tax break, I would just as soon give it to every citizen that owns property in this whole city ... not those coming in from Louisville to work here ...”

SEE COUNCIL/PAGE A3



Jane Ashley Pace

Service with a smile — Shirley Bell bags up to go orders at Immaculate Conception’s Fish Fry.

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

BY JANE ASHLEY PACE
PUBLISHER

The start of Lent, a 40-day period Christians observe in preparation for Easter, also meant the return of the popular Friday night Fish Fries at Immaculate Conception in La Grange and St Aloysius in Pewee Valley. Though some waited up to an hour in line Friday night, they said it was worth the wait for the fish, hush puppies and sides.

Immaculate Conception Church, pictured, will host a fish fry every Friday through April 11 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Fish, shrimp, pizza, hush puppies and sides are featured with dine-in or carry-out options available at 502 North Fifth Avenue in La Grange. St. Aloysius is also hosting a



Jane Ashley Pace

Jack Dombroski and Bill Hoelsher manning the ticket booth during the Friday Fish Fry at Immaculate Conception Church in La Grange.

fish fry every Friday through March 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Fried and baked fish, rolled oysters, shrimp, hush puppies

and sides are available for dine-in, carry-out or drive-thru at 212 Mt. Mercy Drive in Pewee Valley.

Court approves Oldham County Entertainment Center

New center to be built across from OCHS

BY GRANT GERSTNER
EDITOR

After an extensive presentation and discussion, the second reading and zoning change of the proposed Oldham County Entertainment Center was

approved by the Oldham County Fiscal Court.

The entertainment center, which will be located on Highway 393 across from Oldham County High School, is planned to feature six indoor multi-use — mainly pickleball — courts, an outdoor lawn with games, a playground and a cafe with a drive-thru.

SEE CENTER/PAGE A3

OCHS student found dead outside burned vehicle in Taylor County

BY CENTRAL KENTUCKY
NEWS-JOURNAL STAFF

Kentucky State Police Post 15 is conducting a death investigation of a 17-year-old Oldham County High School student found in Taylor County.

KSP received a call from the Taylor County Dispatch Center at 12:48 p.m. EST March 7 requesting investigative assistance with a death investigation on Gaddis Ridge Road in Taylor County. The preliminary investigation indicates that a vehicle was found burned and a deceased male was discovered outside of the vehicle.

The body was identified March 11 by the Taylor County Coroner’s Office as Nathan Hammond, 17, of Oldham County.

An autopsy was performed at the State Medical Examiner’s Office. The cause of death has not yet been finalized, according to authorities.

The investigation is ongoing and is being conducted by Detective Dexter Colvin.

According to his obituary, Hammond excelled in academics at Oldham County High School where he was in his junior year. Hammond enjoyed playing Dungeons & Dragons, board games and was an accomplished chess player. He also found joy in attending the Renaissance Fair and held a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Visitation and a celebration of life were held Sunday, March 9 at Heady Radcliff Funeral Home in La Grange.



ONE PILL CAN KILL

Spot the fake at [DEA.gov/OnePill](https://www.dea.gov/OnePill)

Paid for by Opioid Abatement Funds from Oldham County Fiscal Court.

