





Thursday, September 4, 2025

Community loses two pillars of Spencer County within two days

SUBMITTED BY SPENCER COUNTY-**TAYLORSVILLE CHAMBER OF** COMMERCE

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of our dear friend and community leader, Teresa Winkler.

Teresa was a devoted servant to Spencer County, giving her time, energy, and heart to the organizations she cared about. She served faithfully on the Library Board and with our Chamber of Commerce, always bringing thoughtfulness, kindness, and a spirit of collaboration to everything she touched.

She worked tirelessly to enrich the cultural life of our community, bringing both Shakespeare in the Park and the Louisville Orchestra to Spencer County. These efforts gave our community opportunities to gather, celebrate the arts, and experience something truly special close to home.

feisty nature — you never had to She spoke with honesty and conviction, but always from a place of



Teresa Winkler

community. That spirit, combined with her generosity and compassion, made her a truly one-of-akind presence in Spencer County.

Her impact will continue to be felt for years to come, and her absence leaves a

Chamber family extends our deepest countless students with wisdom, wonder where you stood with her. condolences to Teresa's loved ones. patience, and care. Beyond the and the legacy she leaves behind. to our community on the Library lasting mark they leave on our care for others and love for her We were truly lucky to have called Board, where her dedication helped community.

Our community is once again deeply saddened as we share the passing of Cornelia Winkler, just one day after the loss of her beloved daughter, Teresa.

Cornelia was a true pillar of Spencer County. She devoted her life to education

Teresa was also known for her space that cannot be filled. Our as a teacher, shaping the lives of We are grateful for her life, her service, classroom, she continued her service

Winkler

her both a colleague and a strengthen and preserve one of our most valued resources.

> While our hearts ache from such a great loss, there is comfort in knowing that Cornelia is now reunited with Teresa. Together, their legacy of service, strength, and love for Spencer County will live on for generations.

Our Chamber family extends our deepest condolences to the Winkler family and loved ones during this time of profound loss. We honor both Cornelia and Teresa for the remarkable lives they lived and the



Pictured left to right: Board Member Jason Phelps, Coach Sayre, Kourtney Bickett, Coach Garrett, and Superintendent Dr. Willie Foster.

Spencer County students recognized at BOE meeting

THE SPENCER MAGNET

Three Spencer County Schools students were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments at the Board of Education meeting on Aug. 26. Chief Academic Officer Amanda Butler introduced them, and read aloud their addolades.

KOURTNEY BICKETT

Bickett is a member of the Spencer County Middle School Grizzly Archery Team.

In June, Bickett competed at the NASP Championship in Myrtle Beach, an elite National tournament that only qualifying teams can attend.

"Not only did she rise to the challenge, but she also achieved her personal best score," said Butler.

Bickett scored a 293 out of 300 in Bullseye division, securing third place in the Nation among Middle School girls.

KENDALL SLAUGHTER

In July, at the National Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Leadership Conference in Orlando, Slaughter was elected as the National Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Vice President of Development.

"This process is long, and arduous. She began her journey with a lengthy application process, a knowledge test, and an interview and speech with the nominating committee. She was chosen as part of the top cndidates, and then went through the National Executive Council, made a process of interviewing with voting up of 10 officers, those officers then



Pictured left to right: Board Member Jason Phelps, Kendall Slaughter, and Superintendent Dr. Willie Foster.



Pictured left to right: Board Member Jason Phelps, Hadlea Roberts, and Superintendent Dr. Willie Foster.

sented her speech to the 10,000 members in attendance at the national meeting. Once she was elected to

delegates from all states and pre- had to decide who would hold which office. This process was extremely difficult, and Kendall handled it beautifully," said Butler.

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Tax rates set at BOE meeting

Approve increase of .1 cents per \$100 of assessed value

> **BY JEFF SOPLAND** THE SPENCER MAGNET

Spencer County residents will see a very slight increase in their taxes to help the school system get some additional funding for their General Fund to help with the uptick in growth.

The Spencer County Board of Education held a special tax hearing prior to the regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 26 to further discuss the options that were available for the district to get the most tax revenue, without making residents pay more.

Gwen Shouse, newly-appointed Chief Finance Officer, was on hand to help explain the multiple options. Shouse addressed multiple tax rates: real estate; tangible; motor vehicle, and utility.

As in the past, the board discussed the options at a work session prior to this public hearing.

At that session, they looked at various rate options, noting the most and least common rates that have been levied.

The most common are a 4 percent Revenue Increase, and the Compensating Rate, with the least common being HB 940 (Tier 1) and Subsection 1.

The options for this year (excluding the Exoneration Allowance) would be:

Compensating Rate - 57.7 cents for Real Estate (RE), and 57.7 cents

for Tangible Property (TP) 4% Increase – 60 cents for RE, and 60 cents for TP

HB 940 – 51.3 cents for RE, and 51.3 cents for TP

Subsection 1 - 67.1 cents for RE, and 67.1 cents for TP

According to Shouse, a 4 percent increase rate actually produces 4% more revenue than the previous year, but is not a 4% increase on the actual tax rate, and historically, Spencer County has agreed to take the exoneration allowance, which generates revenue that should have been received in the prior year if there had not been tax bills removed from the tax rolls.

Also at the work session, it was stated that revenue from the property and utility taxes comprise about 40% to 50% of the district's General Fund Budget.

When looking into adjacent

districts' tax rates, Spencer is the 95th highest in the State at 60 cents, with Bullitt County at 75.9 cents, Jefferson County at 73.5 cents, Shelby County at 71.4 cents, Nelson County at 67.3 cents, and Anderson County at 59.5 cents. All of the above counties levied the 4% tax

When it comes to the 14 districts that compromise OVEC, the highest rate was Frankfort Independent, at 107.5 cents, which is first in OVEC, and third in Kentucky. The lowest is Grant County, at 57.6 cents, which is 14th in OVEC, and 105th in Kentucky. Spencer County comes in 13th out of 14 OVEC districts. All 14 of OVEC districts took the 4% tax rate last year.

Historical valuations were also discussed at the work session. The valuation for this year \$2.09 billion, which an increase over seven years of around \$780 million, which is about 59%, and there is \$47.7 million of net new property this year.

After going over what was discussed at the work session. Shouse stated to the board "I know that many factors go into your decision, and I hope you have the information needed to make a decision that will impact the Spencer County School Districts long after we're all gone."

Only one citizen addressed the board, who just needed some clarification on what all the terminology actually meant, which was explained to him, at which he understood.

The tax hearing was then closed, with the regular meeting beginning shortly after.

In the regularly meeting, the board unanimously voted to approve "a tax rate of 60 cents on real property, plus the exoneration allowance of 0.1 cents, along with the tax rate of 60 cents on tangible property, plus the exoneration allowance of 0.1 cents while exempting aircraft, watercraft, and inventory in transit, and additionally set the motor vehicle tax at 56 cents, and the utility tax rated at 3%.

Spencer County Schools Superintendent Dr. Willie Foster then noted that the total tax rate on real property represents an overall increase of .1 cents per \$100 of assessed value. For example, the total taxes collected on a property valued at \$200,000 would be \$4 per calendar year.

Likewise, the total tax rate on tangible property represents an overall increase of .1 cents per

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OBITUARIES

THERE WERE NO OBITUARIES SUBMITTED THIS WEEK.

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