

THE STURGIS NEWS

Delivering
For
Sturgis
and
Union County

140TH YEAR STURGIS, UNION COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025 NUMBER THIRTEEN

Court Awards Bids, Makes Appointments

Union County Fiscal Court met in regular session on Tuesday morning, June 24, with magistrates awarding two bids, approving the hiring of two employees, making appointments to various boards and hearing the reading of a resolution.

Two updates were provided to the court. The first from county finance officer Lissa Gibson was the announcement that a local teen has been awarded the Kentucky Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers has awarded their annual \$1000 scholarship to Leah Hunley of Union County. Gibson, who is second vice-president of the organization made the presentation.

Kathy Baird, the county's animal control officer, provided the court with an update on that department's activities this year. According to Baird, 196 animals have come through the facility; many have found new homes in other states and several have been reclaimed by their owners. Baird noted that as economic issues arise, some people find they can't afford their animals and they ask for help in relocating the pets.

Baird also addressed the need to continue the county's spay and neuter program. She noted that the University of Kentucky will bring their mobile vet clinic to the county to help, but she called on the court to match

and \$1150 grant her department has secured to provide people vouchers for spaying/neutering.

The court also heard an update from Earle C. Clements Job Corps Academy director Tessa Gough. Several weeks ago, the center was notified it would close after the federal government declined to renew agreements with the agencies that manage the centers. Two weeks ago, an injunction was filed and Gough reported that a ruling on that injunction would be made this week. On Thursday, it was announced that the programs across the nations will remain open after a federal judge ordered that the motion for a preliminary injunction be granted. Ninety-nine job corps across the nation were scheduled to be shuttered, but for now operations will continue at all centers including ECCJCA, Gough said.

The court approved a resolution in support of the center and noted its importance to the county. The resolution urged the federal government to continue to support the educational programs provided by job corps. Both Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan and Gough stressed the strong community support the center has received from local businesses and individuals. This week, students continued to take classes at the center and provide community service support. They spent most of last

week working at the fair.

Union County Public Schools superintendent Dr. Terra Hancock addressed the court. In her comments, the superintendent stressed that since accepting the position of superintendent a year ago, she has "learned so much about all the people connected in this county" and the day to day support and partnerships that impact the schools. She noted that EMA has been especially helpful with notifications and the court's support of the fitness court and their partnership with the School Resource Officer program has been extremely beneficial to the schools.

Hancock also reported that today, the district will host a Get Behind the Wheel program to give community members the opportunity to drive a bus as the district continues its efforts to secure fulltime and part-time drivers.

Following the presentations, magistrates approved a vehicle lease agreement with the Kentucky Association of Counties, and awarded the tornado siren bid. Don's Mobile Radio was the only bidder on that project which will total \$111,183. IT director Jonathan Baird told the court that some sirens in the county need to be upgraded and he will present information on that project at the next fiscal court meeting.

In addition to the radio

bid, magistrates also approved the salt auction bid, choosing to award that bid to Compass Minerals at a cost of \$128 a ton.

Two new hires were recommended. Justin Phelps who has a CDL was recommended for a position at the road department and Steve Freeman was recommended as a fulltime grounds keeper at Moffitt Lake. Both recommendations were approved.

The court also approved the 2025-26 salary schedule and okayed the purchase of a generator for the 9-1-1 dispatch center. The purchase of a 130 KU generator will be made through the state contract at a cost of \$53,125, with Galloway Electric installing the equipment for \$11,000. Purchase of the new generator has become necessary because of the age of the present generator and its unreliability. According to O'Nan the present generator worked at only half capacity when power failed during the recent tornado and it is imperative for the safety of the citizens as well as first responders that the system not fail.

The court made three appointments to boards during their session Tuesday. Travis Nietz was appointed to the tax appeals board; Duncan Taylor was appointed to the library board and Sean Sheffer was appointed to the Union County Water District Board. Sheffer replaces Joyce Greenwell, who has re-

tired from the board, O'Nan said.

Before the meeting adjourned, Rick Wyatt and Jerri Floyd volunteered to service on the quarterly claims review committee.

In his comments, O'Nan reported that the court will address the side by side ordinance at their next meeting. The judge/executive also told the court that last week he and other judge/executives met with the state's A and R chairman to discuss jail issues and the financial drain they place on counties. Locally, Union County saved over \$1 million after closing the local jail, but jail costs continue to rise and many jails face financial issues.

O'Nan also asked the court the reject all of the bids they accepted at their last meeting related to the construction of the storage building for the emergency operations center. O'Nan said he was notified by the county construction management agency, Codell, that the bids included "everything but the building." The judge/executive called on the court to reject all bids and allow the team to meet and then report back to the court. The court rejected the bids and those bidders will be notified of the change.

The next meeting of the Union County Fiscal Court is July 8, at 9:00 a.m.

Legacy Farms Recognized At UCFB Meeting

For the second year at the annual meeting, the Union County Farm Bureau has recognized two county farming operations that continue to make an impact on the community and agriculture. The Legacy Farm Award is a prestigious honor given by the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation to celebrate farms that have been in operation for many years and have shown outstanding commitment to their local communities and to Farm Bureau.

The local board of directors nominated two farms that have been cornerstones in Union County, demonstrating hard work, dedication and active community involvement. Henshaw Brothers Farms and Royster Farms are this year's recipients of the Legacy Farm Award. Each farm family was presented with a framed certificate and a special farm sign that symbolizes their remarkable contributions to agriculture and the community.

Henshaw Farms which includes Pat, Karen, Philip, Vicki, Paul, Diane, JT, Riley and Greg Henshaw and their families, was started in 1972 when Paul Henshaw began Shiloh Farms operation, 150 acres of crop land and several acres of grass. Henshaw raised beef cattle producing feeder calves. He also cut timber. In 1975 the operation grew to include acreage in Illinois. His sons joined the operation and continued to grow corn, soybeans and milo as well as continuing the feeder calf operation and timber cutting. Following Paul Henshaw's death, his sons continued the legacy but changed the name of the operation to Henshaw Brothers; they purchased additional land in Illinois and Kentucky. Today, the brothers have two grandsons who have joined the operation that grows 1100 acres of corn, 1100 acres of soybeans and raises about 300 cows for feeder calves. The operation is now called Henshaw Cattle.

Also receiving the Legacy Award was the Royster family—Johnny, Gwen, John Will, Christi, Jonathan, Maddie and their families. Royster Farms spans about 10,000 acres and was founded in 1935, initially focusing on beef cattle as the primary source of income. Today, the operations has transitioned into a row crop farm producing corn, soybeans and wheat while continuing to raise 25 head of beef cattle.

Johnny Royster joined the operation in 1972, followed by John Will in 1995, and in 2019, Jonathan Royster became the next generation of Roysters to join the operation, ensuring that the legacy will continue with three generation farming side by side.



MEMBERS OF THE Henshaw family pictured receiving one of the Union County Farm Bureau Legacy Farm Awards at Saturday's annual UC Farm Bureau meeting. Henshaw Cattle was recognized for its continued contributions to the community and to the agriculture industry.



ROYSTER FARMS, A three generation operation was the recipient of a Union County Farm Bureau Legacy Farm award. The presentation was made at the conclusion of Saturday's annual Union County Farm Bureau meeting. Several members of the family are pictured accepting the award.