

Graves' Stamper passionate about teaching math

BY MAX DAVIS
FOR THE TIMES LEADER
AND HERALD LEDGER

Aubree Stamper always loved school and wanted to be a teacher. She wants to help middle schoolers learn the math they need and help them at such an important time in their lives.

Stamper is a senior at Graves County High School and is this week's Murray State Teen of the Week.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher," Stamper said. "Ever since I was probably in preschool, kindergarten, I've always loved school and the idea of being a teacher."

Stamper started her teaching journey through a high school class that partnered with middle and elementary schools, and gave you a chance to help teach young-



"And it's my favorite, because when I was in middle school, it was such an impactful grade level for me. I had a hallway full of teachers who I knew loved and cared for me, and I was always kind of quiet growing up, but I got out of my shell due to the teachers. And Middle School is just a fun age, because, like, everybody's kind of figuring out who they want to be, and are just kind of changing and

growing as a person."

Stamper was influenced by her own middle school teachers and experience, who helped her realize that she wanted to be like them.

"Miss Hammons was my social studies teacher, and Miss Bodine was my math teacher," Stamper highlighted. "I always knew I could come to them for anything, whether it was for cheer, school life, or anything. They were such amazing teachers, but also a good role model, and they cared just as much about you personally as they did your education. It was so amazing to get to experience being like a teacher from them, and I learned so much from them."

Through these experiences, she wants to pursue an educa-

tion degree through Murray State University to be a math teacher. She is excited to learn about teaching and sees it as a customizable degree that allows her to do what she wants to do.

"You can do whatever subject you want for the most part, and you get to create a classroom in an environment that you love, something that you want your students to love," Stamper said. "And you get to create a safe place for them that they can come to learn and love, and make connections with other people. You get to make perfect personal relationships with your students, and it's just a great pathway."

Stamper will be attending Murray State in the Fall of 2026 and hopes to be teaching in Graves county after her graduation.

TOWN

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vehicles or resolve the issue of dilapidated houses.

Prior to the board's establishment, the city was only able to send letters to the property owner.

Code Enforcement Board member Jeremy Reed feels that the board will be of great benefit to the town overall.

"A code enforcement board was necessary to help us preserve the charm and character of our beautiful town," Reed said. "By ensuring that properties and public spaces are well-maintained, we keep our community safe, welcoming, and attractive to local residents and tourists alike."

Overall, the board will allow the council to impose fines and an inexpensive method of applying them to the city. Both the Code Enforcement Board and the Code Enforcement Officer will have varying degrees of duties within their respective roles.

The powers of the Code Enforcement Board will consist of

adopting rules and regulations to govern its operations and the conduct of its hearings; to conduct hearings to determine if there has been a violation of an ordinance over which it has jurisdiction; and to subpoena alleged violators, witnesses and evidence to its hearings. Subpoenas issued by the Code of Ordinance Enforcement Board may be served by any code enforcement officer; to take testimony under oath.

"The idea to establish the code enforcement board has come up within the last year as the city has received feedback from various local residents," Reed told the Herald Ledger. "We needed a fair, consistent and supportive way to respond to community concerns. At the end of the day, the code enforcement board is about helping to preserve the charm and appeal of the City of Eddyville."

According to Reed and the Eddyville City Council, this board has been one of the first code enforcement boards the city has had in recent decades. Reed said that historically, issues have been addressed on a

case-by-case basis with mixed results.

"By establishing the enforcement board, the city will now have a consistent and structured approach to handle each situation," Reed said. "I was invited to serve on the code enforcement board after the city reviewed individuals with relevant experience, community involvement and a strong interest in maintaining our local standards. I was honored to be considered a good fit for that role and gladly accepted."

At the last Eddyville City Council meeting, the ordinance was tweaked and established accordingly. Now, violations regarding animals, garbage and noise have been redacted and are now under the nuisances category. Fines are \$150 for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, and all others are \$350. For buildings and structures, fines are \$150 for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense and \$350 for all others as well. If the citation is contested, maximum penalties may be imposed at the board's discretion.

RISE

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correct photographs they are featured in. The photographs are also uploaded to a database that Wynn can access and moderate.

Director of Special Education Kelly Byrd then reported to the school board that members just finished the child count for this month, which is how they receive their funding. There was an increase of 41 students in 2025 as opposed to 2024. She said that less than half of those were referred to the district, whereas the others moved into the district. There are currently 13 Learning and Behavioral Disorder, or LBD, teachers and three Moderate to Severe Disorder, or MSD, teachers — therefore, the caseloads are high.

Byrd explained that the school district is given funding based on the types of disabilities, such as high incident, which consists of speech and language. There are moderate and low incidents, such as visual

impairment or multiple disabilities, which bring in more funding since the students require more resources. Byrd made note that the autism rate in 2018-2019 was at 7.6% and currently, it is at 14.4%. All of the numbers are rising, as is the severity.

However, Byrd made note that the rate is a trend being seen across the state, not just within the Caldwell County school district.

The school board then discussed the new Jobs for America's Graduates program, as well as last month's ribbon cutting. It was agreed upon that JAG Specialist Stephanie Chambliss has done a great job at regulating the program. JAG consists of taking students on field trips, exposing them to various job and future employment opportunities, whether they are pursuing a career or college upon graduation.

Juniors of the Caldwell County High School have participated the "Leader in Me" program, which is a PK-12 framework that encourages student leadership and boosts academic success. It aims

to empower students, educators and families with both leadership and life skills with the goal of preparing them to excel. The juniors have also been practicing soft skills and there are currently seven teachers leading those classes.

In the spring, there will be a career fair with many career organizations and businesses that students may attend. It will end with a mock interview, where every junior will do an individual interview and a panel interview, in preparation for the real world.

The school board approved an out-of-state trip of 100 11th- and 12th-grade students, alongside four chaperones. The field trip will be in Clarksville, Tennessee, at the City Forum and Dave and Busters, which is a reward for the students' high Kentucky Summative Assessment test scores. The board will also allow Caldwell County Parent Teacher Organization to host a Student Experience Auction at the middle school in January 2026. The funds made will go toward field trips and other items as needed.

TECH

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projects, which it joined in August. Director of local emergency and dispatch Shirley Gray said that the previous dispatch center has been there since the building was built and was overdue for an update.

"It's been that long since anything was done," Gray said. "I think there may have been some renovations to the floor, maybe a little paint, new counter-tops. But other than that, everything had stayed the same. In 2023, we started trying to upgrade some things that were aged, like our computer aided dispatch, which is where we keep our police records and stuff."

Gray said that those minor updates were just the beginning. The only steps remaining are to apply for a recorder and to get a phone refresh, which will bring the center up to the latest technology available.

In what Gray considers to be a work in progress, the past few years, the center has also gotten new radios.

Gray and others working at the dispatch center are also happy to have all new furniture, which they say has given them a comfortable environment to work in. According to Gray, the grant



ALEXA BLACK | Times Leader

"I think it helps a lot having a space like this to work on and I think it'll be more attractive to get new people hired," Gray said. "I think they would come in and say, 'Wow, this looks like a really nice place to work.'"



ALEXA BLACK | Times Leader

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paid for everything, other than the flooring, paint and the ceiling tiles.

The design aspect of this renovation was something Gray considered to be "her masterpiece." Her vision was to have something comforting, bright and sleek, complete with adjustable furniture, which is helpful if a dispatcher wants to stand during their shift. There are also built in heaters, fans and adjustable lights with

options on the desks.

She said that having a space that simply looks nice aids in productivity in a somewhat stressful job.

"I designed it all," Gray told the Times Leader. "I think it helps a lot having a space like this to work on and I think it'll be more attractive to get new people hired. I think they would come in and say, 'Wow, this looks like a really nice place to work.' Here, we have more space, it's just

a nicer place to work. We have everything we need over here."

The previous space where dispatch operated was in another part of the building, near the bay where the ambulances were stationed. When ambulances started, the exhaust was distracting. Although Gray said that could not be helped, the change in location of the building has been immensely helpful, she said.

With the new updates, Gray and the other dispatchers say that they have job openings and that anyone is welcome to see the updated dispatch center and pick up an application.

Gray and the dispatch center give their complete gratitude to the board of directors for the continuous support of the dispatch center and the investment in enhancing emergency services for the county.

"We are lucky because, they have not said no to anything, because they know that we need it," Gray said. "I just think that it's great that we do have a board that knows what we need and is willing to do whatever to help us get that. A grant is a grant and you can only get so much. There is always that extra that has to be paid. They pay it without hesitation and that is huge for us. They are wonderful."

ABUSE

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them, it's because they know something isn't right, and they are just telling their story matter-of-fact."

Statistics from the nonprofit organization Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, or RAINN, show that repeat offenders aren't rare: 37% of perpetrators have prior convictions, 51% are rearrested within three years, and 10% have five or more prior felony convictions.

Herrera said this is because many sex offenders choose not to get counseling after the first offense.

"These types of crimes are crimes of opportunity, so they put themselves in environments where there are a lot of children, or they have access to children, and so they continue that pattern by being around youth," Herrera said.

Herrera said when it comes to keeping kids safe from sex offenders, parents should take caution and look for the signs.

"Is someone having access to their child for extended amounts of time, or is there an over request of wanting to be around the child on their own?" Herrera said. "Is the child becoming more sexualized? Are they starting to isolate themselves more?"

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