

Trimble County Clerk Tina Browning is retiring on July 31 after 30 years in county government and nine decades of continuous service by her family in the Trimble County Courthouse. The office will be close July 31 for the transition to interim clerk Sarah Cull. Browning is holding the deed book with the first deed issued in Trimble County in 1837 for the establishment of the courthouse square and related

Browning retiring after 30 years of service in Trimble clerk's office

BY CINDY WARRICK THE TRIMBLE BANNER

With just a few more days left on the job, Trimble County Clerk Tina Browning is looking forward to retirement, when she will become the sixth and last member of her family to serve continuously in county or state government since the 1940s.

In 30 years of service to Trimble County — 20 as deputy clerk and the last 13 years as county clerk — Browning has seen many changes in the courthouse. She began her career in a small space behind the circuit clerk's office and ended her career in the current annex with not only ample space, but state of the art services.

She noted that many of the county's books in the office have not only been rebound and preserved but digitized so records can be searched online. A current more roller cabinets for the books to provide easier

Over the years Browning estimates her office has gotten more than \$500,000 in grants

for important updates and

Even before working in the clerk's office, Browning recounted years spent visiting her relatives in their offices at the courthouse — Clarence Egerton, who was sheriff and later Judge-Executive; Edward Egerton who was also sheriff; and Renee Egerton, who served as secretary to both.

As a young girl in the 1970s, Browning lived in the block behind the courthouse and can recall her mother frequently calling them all into the house as the sheriff would be destroying confiscated marijuana by burning it in a burn pit behind the courthouse. She recalls during Regatta Weekend the line of people arrested in connection with that event would go around the old Stone Jail as people were processed for all sorts of infractions.

Thirty years in a "job I just addition has been adding love" has been rewarding, she said. "Elections are my favorite thing ... seeing people exercise their right to vote, and assuring that elections are secure and accurate."

that have no only saved the that the 2026 county elections long time.

county money but allowed will be one of the most stateof-the-art ever contested in other purchases for the office. the county using print-ondemand ballots. Upon checking in, voters will be presented a barcoded ticket that will be scanned into the voting machine and the appropriate ballot for each voter will be printed out.

Most jobs result in a favorite historical artifact that one item that brings a fond memory each time you see or touch it — and Tina's is the original cast iron county stamp from 1837 that is still in use — the handle rubbed smooth from thousands of uses over the last 188 years. Her most meaningful achievement is being the first female county clerk in Trimble County history.

Browning will leave her job at the end of the month when Deputy Clerk Sarah Cull will take over as interim until the 2026 election. She wants residents to know that the Clerk's office will be closed on July 31 for the transition, but it will be business as usual Aug. 1, just without Browning or an Egerton family member working in the courthouse She is proud of the fact for the first time in a very



Trimble County Board of Education members Suzy Turner (left) and Kim Perkinson experience a virtual tour of Payne Hollow on the Ohio via Quest 3 headsets at Tuesday's school board working session.

Trimble school board travels to Payne Hollow without leaving boardroom

THE TRIMBLE BANNER

Two officials with Payne Hollow on the Ohio made a presentation to Trimble County Board of Education on how the local schools could incorporate that site into their curriculum in ways ranging from history and music to science and technology.

Payne Hollow On the Ohio Director David Wick and board member Joe Wolek made the presentation at the school board's working meeting on Tuesday including a virtual reality tour of the site by two University of Louisville research students using headsets.

The students are part of the Community Engaged Ecosystem Research project and presented the virtual reality tour of Payne Hollow — the homestead and art studios of Harlan and Anna Hubbard — that they prepared as part of that project.

Zack Burkhardt has mapped all the places where Harlan and Anna Hubbard's influence jas been felt in Earth. Places where they left Hollow. The Trimble County

on the river were especially noted. Colleague Mohamed Konsowa explained to the school board the development of the virtual reality tour of the Hubbard property.

Several board members experienced the virtual tour and were amazed at the reality of the scenes using 360degree depictions of the river, the land around the Hubbard's house and a room inside their home. The virtual tour is being developed as an option for those wanting to experience the Hubbards' lifestyle and their home along the Ohio River in Trimble County but are physically unable to travel to the site due to its remote location and the steep access path to the property.

The Hubbard's lived on the fringe of modern life just the way they wanted and without knowing it, left behind an unspoiled "living classroom" for future generations to experience.

The presentation to the school board was another in a series of local events and presentations this year Trimble County using Google on the Hubbards and Payne

paintings depicting their life Public Library has held a number of programs and organized several tours of the site including sponsoring an upcoming "Paint Like Harlan" experience at the Payne Hollow house at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23. Registration is required by calling 502-255-7362

> In other business, Superintendent Todd Neace provided an update on a summer construction project at the Jr/Sr High school. He said completion by the start of school on Tuesday, Aug. 12, will be tight but he expects work to be done and the campus to be ready for the opening.

> Due to several medically fragile students enrolled in each school, the board discussed adding a medical professional to provide support at the county's schools. However, the issue was tabled to allow the board time to consult with each building principal to assess the level of medical support needed at their building.

> The school board's next working session will be at 4 p.m. on Aug. 12, with the regular business meeting to follow at 5 p.m.

Lake Jericho future uncertain after Watershed votes to accept lease bids

PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

The future of Lake Jericho, a 137-acre recreational lake located at 1317 Lake Access Road in Smithfield, is uncertain following a unanimous vote made by the Little Kentucky River Watershed Conservancy District Board at their packed monthly meeting held

Foree made the motion stating, "The Watershed will advertise and accept sealed bids containing proposals to lease the campground and park facilities at Lake Jericho."

Thursday.

Over 20 full-time and seasonal residents were in attendance at the July 17 meeting and shared their concern about the decision.

Board chairman Tommy Webb was asked by the residents during the meeting if they could get a commitment to be able to stay during the winter.

"I can't do that right now," Webb responded. "Because I don't know what, if we have program, five flood retarding a bid that suits the board, then I don't know what's that's going to be."

A resident asked if they could have them keep the same dynamic. "I can't have them do anything," Webb said. "Once we're out of it, they can do whatever they want."

"I came to the lake last summer from Arizona. When they closed for the winter, I went back to Arizona,' Thomas Gillies said after the meeting. "I came back in March of this year and was able to get into a permanent spot. I have grandkids that live in Crestwood. My granddaughter spends a lot of time with me in my motorhome.

"The lake is a great place and most of the people are very nice. Actually, I have the best neighbors that I have

ever had in my life. I really and meets monthly to review am not happy about what the board has done.

"I really hope that someone will take over the lake who some great people here."

Webb confirmed to the Local that there are eight to 10 full-time families, and 25 to 30 seasonal families currently living at the Lake Jericho campgrounds.

According to the Henry Board member Butch County Fiscal Court website, recurring flooding damaged thousands of acres of cropland in Henry and Trimble Counties in the late 1950's. The town of Sulphur was underwater, and many homes were lost. The Henry and **Trimble County Conservation** Districts worked with the fiscal courts in each county and the Soil Conservation Service to develop a project that would protect residents in this watershed from future damage. A board of directors was formed from landowners within the watershed to oversee the activities.

Under SCS's PL-566 structures were installed throughout the watershed for a cost of \$1.7 million. One of those structures, Lake Jericho, was also designed

as a recreation area. Lake Jericho opened for business on July 25, 1969, and over the years has offered fishing, camping, shelters with bathrooms, outdoor picnic areas with grills and hiking trails.

An advertisement will be placed in the Henry County Local and the Trimble Banner between 21 and seven days before the bidding process

The Little Kentucky River Watershed Conservancy District Board is comprised of eight members, five from Henry County and three from Trimble County. The board is a sub-district of the local county conservation districts activities occurring within the watershed. All meetings are open to the public.

The next meeting of the is for community. I've met board will be Aug. 21 at 7



Full-time resident Thomas Gillies and several neighbors share concern over the uncertain future of the Lake Jerich campgrounds during the Watershed board meeting on July 17.

Photo by Joe Durbin



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