

COMMUNITY

4th Annual Gateway & Buffalo Trace Small Business Awards
Celebrate Local Entrepreneurs and Community Impact



Agriculture Business of the Year-Jim & Jennifer Meadows
Rip's Farm Center

The spirit of entrepreneurship and community pride was on full display during the 4th Annual Gateway & Buffalo Trace Small Business Awards, held Tuesday evening, August 26, 2025, at the Adron Doran University Center. The celebration brought together business leaders, community members, and advocates for a night of networking, recognition, and inspiration. This annual event was created to give community members the opportunity to nominate and

celebrate their favorite small businesses, entrepreneurs, and small business champions across the Gateway and Buffalo Trace regions. Inspiring Keynote This year's program featured Kyle Caudill, Owner of A-1 Implements in Morehead, Kentucky, who shared his journey of starting and growing his business in rural Kentucky. Caudill reflected on the history of his company, his decision to invest locally, and the challenges faced along the



Heavy Hitter Award Shaun Pope- Southern
Home Renovations

way, offering attendees an authentic perspective on the realities of small business ownership.

- Award Categories & Honorees
- Rising Star Award Nominees:
- The Bean Bag Coffee Shop – April Crouch
 - Salt Mine Café – Sean Montgomery
 - The Hairloft – Misty Dunaway
 - Ada June's Boutique – Alexa Cophee
 - Live Wire Print-

- ing – Winston Reeder
 - J&S Monuments
- Christopher Smoot & JP Tranbarger
- Beautifully Blushed Makeup and Bridal Boutique – Shannon Mitchell
 - The Honey Haus Boutique – Caitlin & Blake Thomas
 - Gateway Collision – Justin Shoemaker
 - Speech & Language Pathway – Nicolette Kuzman & Katelyn Dyer
- 2025 Rising Star Award Winner: Salt Mine Café

– Sean Montgomery, Salt Lick, Kentucky

Agriculture Business of the Year Nominees:

• Rip's Farm Center – Jim & Jennifer Meadows

Business Awards cont. on pg. 20



BID NOTICE

Whitaker Bank in Morehead is now accepting bids on a 2000 Kenworth KWW90 Semi Truck.

Bids will be accepted until 5:00 pm on 9/15/2025.

Contact John Rhodes at Whitaker Bank in Morehead, KY at 606-780-8345 or email jrhomdes@whitakerbank.com for additional details.

Published in the Rowan County News on 08.28 & 09.04 of 2025



BID NOTICE

Whitaker Bank in Morehead is now accepting bids on a 2015 MAC 42' Stepdeck Trailer.

Bids will be accepted until 5:00 pm on 9/15/2025.

Contact John Rhodes at Whitaker Bank in Morehead, KY at 606-780-8345 or email jrhomdes@whitakerbank.com for additional details.

Published in the Rowan County News on 08.28 & 09.04 of 2025



BID NOTICE

Whitaker Bank in Morehead is now accepting bids on a 2007 Peterbilt 379 Extended Hood Semi Truck.

Bids will be accepted until 5:00 pm on 9/15/2025.

Contact John Rhodes at Whitaker Bank in Morehead, KY at 606-780-8345 or email jrhomdes@whitakerbank.com for additional details.

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606 PRESENTS

RANCH
RODEO
WEEKEND

19 & 20 SEPT

Friday night: Wild West
Fun Show

Sat: Ranch Rodeo &
Sam L. Smith Concert



5194 Ewing Rd Ewing Ky 41039
Primitive camping available

Follow us on FB
For additional
information



The
Carlisle Mercury



GRAND
REOPENING

605 Moorefield Rd., Carlisle, KY 40311

September 11, 2025 from
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

MENU: Hot dogs, chips and pop (until food is all gone)

also on the day of the Grand Re-Opening we will be doing a:

Subscription Special
Register for Door Prize



We will also be honoring
Charles Mattox as well
on Sept 11, 2025.

Come out and join us
and see our new
location and help us
honor Charles Mattox.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Since the last Letter to the Editor, we've received numerous questions about Mayor White-Brown's proposed 2025 tax rates: .363, .398 and .413. All appear lower than the 2024 tax rate of .452. But it doesn't mean taxes will decrease as most property values increased this year. Some taxpayers will pay the same amount, and many will pay more. Using any of the mayor's proposed rates would give the city the same amount or more in property taxes than collected last year. Enough to cover the current budget with an additional 29+% excess in tax dollars, bringing the White-Brown tax increase up to a staggering 46-49% during her administration.

Tax rate calculations are confusing. Taxes are based on a rate per hundred dollars of value set by the city and multiplied by property values set by PVA. To understand what these rates look like to the average household, we selected 6 properties representing various Morehead populations. These 6 households include working families with 2 incomes and children, retirees including one social security only fixed income and citizens who rent. We looked at city tax increases over Mayor White-Brown's time as mayor and how the White-Brown tax increases affect citizens personally.

The year before Mayor White-Brown's administration in 2018, the tax rate was .297 but by 2024 had increased to .452. Before the last PVA property evaluation, the average home value of these 6 properties was \$127,357. Meaning that in 2018 the average city taxes would have been \$378. However, in 2024, after yearly tax increases, taxes rose to \$576. Using the new 2025 property evaluations of these 6 homes' average value of \$170,243 and the mayor's proposed tax rate of .413 results in city taxes going up to \$703. Simplified formula example: .413(Rate) Divide by 100 x \$170,243 (Home Value) = \$703 tax due. We encourage you to use this formula with your PVA reassessment to find your proposed 2025 property taxes.

How would the 6 families in the example pay the White-Brown tax when the \$703 tax bills come due in December? Many taxpayers may cut back on their budget and make hard choices. The widow, whose only income is a monthly social security check, may have to decide between taxes, medicine, doctor bills, groceries. The family working 2 jobs with children may be forced to scale back in many areas including a smaller Christmas. The retirees, perhaps cutting back on visiting family and friends or basic needs. People renting may see their monthly rent increase to reflect the \$703. This is real money for these families, not just rates and numbers.

For the past several years, more than enough taxes have been collected to provide basic services. Budgets are continually developed using underestimated revenue from property, vehicle, insurance and occupational taxes producing millions of dollars as carryover. How much and where do these extra tax dollars go? More money to invest with Kentucky League of Cities? We propose going back before the White-Brown tax increases, to a 2018 compensating rate. With millions in surplus dollars, taxes should be lowered. Why not use the millions of dollars the city already has instead of raising taxes? These rates are not merely numbers, they affect our families, our friends and our neighbors. We encourage everyone to speak up on these issues and don't hesitate to contact us with your comments, concerns, or advice on how to become more involved or to run for mayor/city council. bel.hitch@roadrunner.com

Belinda Hitch