The ADAIR Progress

YOUR local newspaper since 1987

Volume 38 Number 48 • Columbia, KY • 50¢

20 PAGES | 2 SECTIONS | AdairProgress.com | THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

Pamela Hoots Looks to Complete City Projects in New Mayoral Bid

By Mig Feuser

On February 25, Mayor Pamela Hoots noted, "Today I filed to run for another term as Mayor of Columbia. It is an honor to serve each of you and our great community. Thank you again for caring about our community." Mig Feuser talked with Pamela Hoots about her next campaign.

Adair Progress: "You have technically served three terms as a mayor, beginning in the early 90s and returning to office nine years ago. What is calling you to file again, and why do you feel now is the right time to continue serving?"

Pamela Hoots: "We have a lot of projects going on in the city of Columbia that I would like to see to completion. I enjoy serving the people of Columbia and I hope to be able to continue to serve."

The Mayor's Seat in the meeting room of Columbia's city hall: Pamela Hoots is holding it for many years, and now running for another term.

AP: "In 2024, you said in an interview, I love people, and described listening as one of the most important parts of your role. How has that philosophy shaped your leadership over the past term, and how would it guide you if voters return you to

See **Mayor,** *Cont. on* **Page A3**

Jason Faulkner, Sarah Hatton, and Susan Pfefferman informed the member of the Chamber of Commerce about the State of the Schools.

Faulkner Outlines Progress, Challenges During "State of the Schools" Presentation

By Mig Feuser

Education in Adair County is improving academically while continuing to face challenges ranging from teacher shortages to facility needs, Superintendent Jason Faulkner told members of the Columbia–Adair County Chamber of Commerce last Tuesday.

Faulkner was the featured speaker during the chamber's "State of the Schools" presentation, offering an overview of the district's operations, academic performance and ongoing projects. "I love being able to present to community members," Faulkner said. "We talk about schools a lot among ourselves, but it's important to give the community an idea of what's going on."

He emphasized that the district's direction is guided by a vision statement adopted last year describing

See **Faulkner,** *Cont. on* **Page A3**

Public Notice Response – Columbia/Adair Utilities District

Columbia/Adair Utilities District would like to clarify the notice that some customers recently received regarding a monitoring violation. On September 26, a routine water sample collected from our system tested positive for total coliform bacteria. As required by state and federal drinking water regulations, we immediately collected repeat samples the following day. The repeat samples tested negative, confirming that the water in the distribution system was safe.

After receiving the satisfactory results, the District submitted notification on October 2 to the Kentucky Division of Water indicating that the follow-up samples were clear. Unfortunately, due to a communication issue, that email confirmation was not received, which resulted in the state issuing a Tier 2 monitoring/reporting violation notice.

It is important for our customers to understand:

- Your water has remained safe to drink.
- All follow-up testing confirmed no coliform bacteria in the system.
- This notice was issued due to a reporting/communication issue, not because of unsafe drinking water.

Columbia/Adair Utilities District continuously monitors the system and remains committed to providing safe, reliable drinking water to all of our customers. If you have any questions, please contact our office. Thank you for your understanding and for allowing us to serve you.

Indians' Season Comes to a Close After Regional Semifinal Run

By Kelly Wooley
Sports Contributor

The Adair County Indians' basketball season came to an end in the semifinal round of the regional tournament, falling to North Hardin 68-56. While the final result was not the ending fans had hoped for, the Indians put together a season that will not soon be forgotten.

Throughout the year, Adair County proved to be a resilient group. The Indians won games many didn't expect them to win and dropped a few tough ones along the way, but one thing remained constant — they never quit. The team battled night in and night out, showing heart and determination that kept fans proud of their effort all season long.

In the regional semifinal matchup,

See **Regional,** *Cont. on* **Page A3**

More Than A Ribbon Cutting: Community Celebrates The Arrival Of Price Less IGA

By Katelynn M. Molesky

For many years, Houchens Food Group's Hometown IGA served as a major food store for the community. Two weeks ago it was rebranded as Price Less, sporting not just a new name but also an entirely new interior and feel.

Last Saturday, the remodeled store held its grand opening and ribbon cutting, a major celebration, featuring giveaways from companies such as McKee Foods and Clark Beverage Group, free food, and even an appearance from the Adair County High School Band, who performed the National Anthem alongside a variety of other pieces for those in attendance.

The ceremony itself consisted of speeches from several representatives of Houchens, Mayor Pamela Hoots and Landon Edwards, President of the Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce, who addressed the crowd, showing their support of the rebranded store.

Columbia's store manager, Elsie Roy, cut the ribbon for the new Price Less IGA. Surrounding her are numerous Houchens representatives, as well as members of the community.

Finally, at the

See **Ribbon,** *Cont. on* **Page A3**

OBITUARIES

Claud Atchley, Edward Guy Benningfield, Jr., Wanda Gayle Hovious, Jonathon Janes, and Jo Ann Robinson Morris.

FOLLOW US ONLINE fb.me/TheAdairProgress

LOCAL FORECAST • COLUMBIA

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
53	65	66	75	41
38	38	50	36	21

See Basketball Contest Page A10