

FISCAL

Continued from A1

in environmental stewardship, economic equity, education, health and civic engagement, and affirms the county's support for gender equity and expanded opportunity.

TOURISM, AMERICA 250 UPDATES

Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Kendall Clinton and Tim Montgomery provided a financial and marketing update. Revenues are slightly down year over year, though short-term rental collections have increased. A new motel expected to open this spring is projected to boost revenue.

Clinton outlined marketing efforts tied to the county's America 250 celebration, including print advertising, social media promotion, a billboard campaign and upcoming events such as "Our Civil Wars," a film screening of "The Shot Heard Round the World," and an "Evening with Abraham Lincoln".

The court approved a letter of support for a proposed Kentucky Historical Society marker recognizing bourbon figure Pappy Van Winkle's ties to Danville. Research indicates Van Winkle attended Centre College and lived in a home on Mabel Avenue that still stands.

Magistrates also approved the CVB's request to move its banking services to Farmers Bank to secure a higher interest rate.

ACADEMIC TEAM RECOGNIZED

The court recognized the Boyle County High School academic team for a series of accomplishments, including:

- KAAC District Governor's Cup champions
- KAAC District Quick Recall champions
- KAAC District Future

DANVILLE

Continued from A1

academically but as young people learning to contribute to a community, she said.

"The diversity within the school also broadened my perspective at an early age," McCowan said, noting that interacting with classmates from different backgrounds helped her develop empathy and respect that continue to guide her work with students today.

In her classroom, McCowan aims to spark a love for Spanish language and culture, often introducing students to music and television in Spanish. Still, she says her top priority is creating a space where students feel safe and valued.



Members of the Boyle County Academic Team visit with the Boyle County Fiscal Court.

Problem Solving champions

- Spartan Invitational Quiz Bowl champions
 - Qualification for the National Quiz Bowl Tournament for the second consecutive year
- Coach Tyler Murphy said the team competes against schools of all sizes, including private institutions with dedicated academic team classes, and credited the students' work ethic and district support.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Building Inspector Rusty Cox reported that permit activity in 2025 was nearly identical to the previous year, with single-family dwellings accounting for 46.5% of permits issued. Several subdivisions are nearing capacity, though additional phases and new developments are planned. Cox confirmed that the former O'Charley's restaurant building will be demolished and replaced by a Seven Brew Coffee location. Firehouse Subs and Jersey Mike's are also moving forward with plans in the county.

The court approved a \$12,565 bid from Elite Agronomics to install new chain-link fencing with privacy slats and gates at the bike park entrance.

County Surveyor Rich Murphy reported completion and recording of a new plat for Constitution Square, noting no encroachments were found. Officials also discussed potential future

improvements involving a historically significant log structure near the site.

RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Recycling Director Angie Muncy received approval for the county's annual Household Hazardous Waste grant application totaling \$53,138 and a \$55,000 illegal dump cleanup grant for the Miners Branch site.

Muncy also presented the department's annual report and updated the court on the status of a burn permit for the county's air curtain burner. The permit is currently in a 30-day public comment period through the Division of Air Quality.

Magistrates discussed ensuring proper equipment and loading procedures to reduce smoke concerns while the unit operates temporarily at its current location.

LOOKING AHEAD

County Administrator Julie Wagner reported progress on structural concerns at the courthouse clock tower and said architects have indicated repairs should be addressed promptly.

Throughout the meeting, officials emphasized continued investment in tourism, infrastructure and student achievement as Boyle County moves through its America 250 celebration year.

The fiscal court will meet again in March.

"What matters most to me is that my students know that I genuinely care about them and I want to make sure they always have a safe space in my classroom," she said.

McCowan's connection to the district extends beyond her role as a teacher. She is also a Danville Schools parent. Her daughter, now a senior at Danville High School, began her education at Jennie Rogers Elementary before moving on to Toliver Intermediate School and Bate Middle School.

"As a parent, I couldn't imagine having my daughter in any other school system," McCowan said.

When advising parents choosing an educational path for their children,

McCowan encourages them to look beyond test scores and consider the overall environment.

"In a smaller, diverse school community like Danville, students aren't just numbers; they are known by their teachers and peers," she said.

She urges families to value diversity and community, saying those experiences prepared her for the real world in ways she did not fully appreciate at the time.

Gratitude, she said, is what drives her to continue investing in Danville Schools.

"I know firsthand that the impact of a supportive school community can last a lifetime," McCowan said. "Danville Schools didn't just educate me; it helped shape my character."

In addition, Hawkins was found guilty of first-degree rape, with a recommended sentence of 20 years, and incest by forcible compulsion involving a victim under 18 years of age, also carrying a recommended 20-year sentence.

The jury recommended that all sentences run consecutively, resulting in a total of 240 years. Formal sentencing is scheduled

for April 24.

Sheriff Taylor Bottom said in a statement that his office, along with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, remains committed to protecting the community and pursuing offenders who target children.

Officials credited the prosecution team and Gaddis' investigative work for the outcome of the case.

BOYLE

Continued from A1

independence, to the series of constitutional conventions held in Danville. Samuel McDowell chaired multiple conventions, and Kentucky was admitted to the Union on June 1, 1792.

Boyle County Judge-Executive Trille Bottom emphasized the long view of history, noting that future generations will look back on this year's events as part of the county's ongoing story.

"Fifty to 100 years from now, people are going to be talking about what happened here on this day," Bottoms said. She described the United States as a young nation compared to many others but one shaped by diversity and continued growth.

Danville Mayor James J. "J.H." Atkins reflected on the broader American narrative, including the centennial of the recognition of Black History Month at the national level. He thanked the committee for including diversity, equity and inclusion as part of the local 250th celebration, calling it an important part of the story being told.

State Sen. Amanda Mays Bledsoe also addressed the crowd, calling the anniversary a moment to reflect on both the nation's founding ideals and the realities of the democratic process.



DANVILLE-BOYLE COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Costumed actors portraying Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson perform a living-history presentation during the America 250 kickoff event at Constitution Square.

"Democracy is messy," Bledsoe said, adding that the work of self-government requires continued effort and cooperation across differences.

A highlight of the event was a living-history performance featuring portrayals of Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. The two historical figures, played by local performers, engaged in a scripted exchange reflecting on the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the enduring meaning of its most famous line: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal".

In their dialogue, the characters debated the power of words, the unfinished nature of the American experiment and the responsibility of future generations to continue striving toward liberty and equality. The performance tied the Revolutionary era to Kentucky's own constitutional history at Con-

stitution Square.

The ceremony concluded with a musical performance of "America the Beautiful," followed by the exiting of the flag colors.

Organizers said the kickoff marks the beginning of a dozen America 250 events scheduled from March through August across Boyle County. The committee's stated goals are to educate, commemorate and celebrate the community's role in American history.

By launching the celebration at Constitution Square, leaders underscored Danville's longstanding identity as the "City of Firsts" and its central role in Kentucky's formation. As speakers noted throughout the afternoon, the 250th anniversary is not only a look back at the nation's founding but also an opportunity to consider its future.

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