

LOCAL & STATE NEWS

Madison Lockard named SCC Health Student of the Month

CHRISTEN GIBSON
KCTCS.EDU

Somerset Community College announced that one of its Medical Assisting Program students has been named the recipient of the SCC Health Sciences Division's Student of the Month. Madison Lockard of Somerset received the award and is now a candidate for the Division's prestigious Student of the Year Award, to be announced in May 2026. Lockard, a graduate of Pulaski County High School and a Somerset native, was selected for this honor based on her nomination for the award by Debra Elam, Program Coordinator, and Tina Meier, Clinical Coordinator. Debra Elam praised Lockard's dedication and leadership, stating, "Madison Lockard was selected as Student of the Month for Health Sciences Medical Assisting for her exemplary attendance, excellent academic performance, and exceptional professionalism," stated Elam. "Her leadership, attentiveness to her studies, and willingness to support others reflect the high standards of the medi-

cal assisting profession." The SCC Medical Assisting Program prepares students for rewarding entry-level positions across diverse healthcare settings, equipping graduates with clinical, administrative, and professional skills necessary to succeed as members of the healthcare team. Reflecting on her experience, Lockard shared, "The Medical Assisting Program has been a wonderful experience that has helped me expand my knowledge in the healthcare field. The instructors have been amazing, providing unwavering support to ensure students are supported, successful, and prepared to master each skill. I'm truly excited to complete the program and see what opportunities lie ahead." Lockard is expected to graduate in fall 2026. The Medical Assisting Program at SCC is eligible for free tuition under the Work Ready Scholarship due to the high demand for this career pathway in Kentucky. This opportunity opens the door for Kentuckians to earn their education at an incredible discounted rate.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Debra Elam, Medical Assisting Program Coordinator (left) and Tina Meier, Medical Assisting Clinical Coordinator (right) presented Madison Lockard with the SCC Health Sciences Division's Student of the Month award.

Single-bid paving contracts taking a bite out of KY taxpayers?

LIAM NIEMEYER
KENTUCKY LANTERN

FRANKFORT — A GOP lawmaker wants more scrutiny of anti-competitive practices in road paving in Kentucky in hopes of saving taxpayers money. House Bill 505, primarily sponsored by Rep. Kim Holloway, R-Mayfield, is spurred in part by concerns that the state awards too many paving contracts based on only a single bid, driving up costs. The bill would require Republican Auditor Allison Ball to examine the Kentucky Department of Highways' road paving contracts every two years and produce a "statistical analysis" to detect anti-competitive practices in the bidding process. HB 505 is assigned to the House Transportation Committee and awaits further action by lawmakers. Holloway told the Lantern she knows of a separate effort by another GOP lawmaker this session to reformulate and raise the gas tax to provide more funding for road

maintenance and repair. Speaking about roads and bridges, she knows of "quite a few areas in my own district that need attention." "I know it's that way across the state. People would like to see those things fixed, but they don't want to spend any more money for anything else because they are

spent out," Holloway said. She said increasing the gas tax "without auditing the process I think is a little bit premature." Holloway worked on the bill language with Andrew McNeill, the president of the think tank Kentucky Forum for Rights, Economics and Education, or KYFREE, which promotes free-market policies. McNeill has been critical of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's awarding of single bids for road paving contracts across the state, and past analyses from the think tank have found single bids for road paving contracts have driven up the costs of those contracts by millions of dollars.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Housing Authority of Somerset is currently accepting bids for the following services: HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, Pest Control, Painting, and Legal Services. To request a bid packet, or if you have any questions, please contact the office at 606.679.1332. The deadline to submit bids will be February 20th, 2026 by 4:00PM.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Lien Sale Pursuant to KRS 359.230 at Roy's Storage Center, 10275 North Highway 27, Eubank, KY 42567 to satisfy owner's lien on Friday February 13th from 11:00AM-1:00PM you can come view in person. Call 606-379-0203 for more information.

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Commonwealth Journal

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DELIVERY:
If you wish to subscribe, or have a delivery problem, contact the Circulation Department via phone or email during working hours Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone calls only can be left on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Total Media Access Rate is \$202.80 annually
All subscription prices are subject to a 6 percent Kentucky sales tax.

POSTMASTER:
Please send address changes to:
The Commonwealth Journal
P.O. Box 859
Somerset, Ky 42502-0859

The Commonwealth Journal is published in Somerset, Ky, by CNHI on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, except on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Printed on recycled paper using soy ink. (USPS-126-020) (ISSN: 0899-1839)

CROSSWORD

ACROSS		DOWN	
1	Spoken	1	44th president
5	Slow mover	2	News summary
10	Trouble	3	Houston player
12	Lively dance	4	Stellar cat
13	Part player	5	Sports figure
14	Acid type	6	Newborn's
15	Impair		
16	Goddess of the	need	
hunt		7	Give life to
18	God of light	8	Kindles
20	Feasted	9	Untie, perhaps
21	Feasts	11	Refrain bit
23	Decimal base	17	Nonsense
24	Kite feature	19	Luau souvenir
26	Low digits	22	Directed
28	Chess piece	24	Adopted
29	On the ocean	25	Showy flower
31	-- out a living	27	Crew tool
32	God of messages	28	Olympic awards
36	Goddess of	30	That lass
grains		33	Sculptor Henry
39	Low digit	34	Stopped
40	Battery end	35	Canary chow
41	Undermine	37	Border
43	Fencing move	38	Started a hole
44	Was bold	42	Bitterly cold
45	Haste		
46	Ties the knot		

Crossword Puzzle answers can be found on Page 7.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13						14			
15				16	17				
18			19					20	
			21			22		23	
	24	25				26	27		
28				29	30				
31					32			33	34
36			37	38				39	
40						41	42		
43						44			
45							46		

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