

LAMBERT

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read that decision.

“We have to be able to apply the law consistently regardless because we are the guardians of Constitutional principles,” she added. “And sometimes you’ve got to realize that judges don’t even like what we rule ... Just because I might write something doesn’t mean I love it. But

I’m not a member of the legislature. I do not get to pick and choose which laws are out there.”

Stivers took the opportunity to champion the work done by the GOP-controlled Kentucky legislature — in particular the progressive lowering of income tax rates — and challenge Beshear. He particularly noted the work of House members — Pulaski has five representing parts of it — in advancing the

party’s policies after taking control of that body for the GOP in 2016.

“(I)t is the position we have gotten ourselves (into) in spite of the governor, who all the time gets up there and says, ‘We’ll get through this,’” said Stivers. “... (A)t the beginning of the year, he talked about how we were going to have to have budget cuts. He wants to create a crisis so he can get on TV, and can just kind of wring those

hands and say, ‘We’ll get through this.’ Well ... we just got our revenue report in (Monday). We’re actually running at a \$200 million surplus. If we finish out the next two months, we will be \$350 million over (where it was said) we would be back in August and September.”

With Rogers unable to attend, Kelly spoke briefly at the dinner, championing the congressman who is running for his 24th term

in Washington — already the Dean of the House, the body’s longest-serving member.

“He’s protecting this country, he’s doing it with integrity, he is doing it because he cares, he’s doing it because he believes in Americans first, but he never, ever has forgotten where he’s from and the reasons that he’s fighting,” said Kelly. “... (As Dean), he sits on the Steering Committee, so when

members (of Congress) are trying to change their committee position or gain a new committee position, what does that mean? They have to come to Hal Rogers and say, ‘I would like to sit on Ways and Means’ or ‘I would like to be the chairman of Energy and Commerce.’ ... So we have a seat at the table because Hal Rogers is from Pulaski County and because he cares about this community.”

HONORED

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school districts have the opportunity to nominate a number of teachers in several categories around their excellence and work with your students.”

Several teachers from the Somerset district were nominated, she said, with seven to receive certificates of recognition.

However, Meece was awarded the high distinction of the Distinguished Educator Award as the overall regional winner in her category.

Murphy stated that the nomination letter for Meece said that she is “an exceptional mentor to your students, especially in algebra. You present tasks with some innovation and rethinking of how we work with students with algebra, which has been very effective.”

Meece is also a soccer coach at SHS.

For Wesley’s award, Murphy said, “Across the region, principals and school leaders are also nominated, and so we had many folks nominated this year. You were vetted by a number of committees and we’re very pleased to announce that you are the winner of the Distinguished Educator Award for Teacher Leader.”

Keesey said that the committees were impressed with the school’s Solar Car program as well as the expansion of the Dual Credit program.

Murphy added, “To take a dual credit academy where the average number of dual credit classes offered was seven, and move it to 35, is functionally moving the needle with your students. That’s such a tremendous opportunity, and it’s helping all of your students really get that head start on college and whatever that postsecondary opportunity is for them, so kudos for your support.”

Also at the meeting, Somerset Independent Director of Special Education Becki Hays presented the annual report for the Special Education department.

Hays said the district has 18 teachers, 15 instructional assistants and two full-time speech language pathologists as well as a number of contract personnel who assist as needed, including physical therapists and occupational therapists.

The district helps students through all stages of their education, she said.

“As special educators, our goal is to provide free and appropriate public education for students ages 3 to 21 in our school district,” she said. “We provide that with services, accommodations to the general curriculum, modifications, any supports that they need to be able to access the general curriculum.”

Students at the high school level are offered transitional services to their postsecond-



CARLA SLAVEY | CJ

SHS principal Jeff Wesley, left, is presented a Distinguished Educator Award by WKU Director for School Education Dr. Susan Keesey, center, and WKU Dean of the College of Education Dr. Corinne Murphy, right.

ary lives, such as job exploration, job training and job fairs, as well as self-advocacy instruction, she said.

At the age of 16, every student in the program has a post-secondary plan related to education, training and

employment, she said.

“We work in conjunction with the Kentucky Career Center at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in providing students with resources and information on Pre-Employment,” she

said.

Students in the special education program can have needs from developmental delay, speech and language development, hearing or vision impairment, ADHD or autism, she said.

PULASKI

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hire new principals for the 2026-27 school year.

Specifically, there are openings at Burnside Elementary School, where longtime principal April Mounce is retiring, and at Shopville Elementary, where Michael Childers is departing. There was a third at Eubank Elementary School, but Richardson said that Tara Baugh, curriculum coach at that same school, had been hired for that position.

“I also expect a few others possibly to open up in the next few weeks,” said Richardson.

He and Mayfield were set to meet with Burnside’s site-based council the following day, Wednesday, he said, and would be selecting applications to interview, and also planned to meet with Shopville’s council Thursday to share applications with them.

“We’re moving forward with those, trying to get those filled, before July 1,” said Richardson, “... It’s best that we can get people in place in those buildings so they can plan for the upcoming school year.”

Also at Tuesday’s meeting, the school board approved an amended salary schedule for 2026-27. Richardson explained to the board that there were “very few changes” from last year’s salary schedule, but they added informa-



CHRISTOPHER HARRIS | CJ

Students in the Rogers Explorers Program were recognized at Tuesday’s Pulaski County School Board meeting.

tion about what Richardson called DWT, or daily wage threshold, for substitute teachers, helping to clarify how it can be used, and some titles were changed to come under the umbrella of “supervisors of instruction.”

He also said that there have been consistency issues with the titles of Future Problem Solving coach and Academic Team coaches, and so those two roles were separated into specific coaches instead of being rolled up into one coaching salary, at the high school and middle school levels. “It’s already broken apart at the elementary level,” said Richardson.

Looking ahead, Richardson reminded family and

friends of high school graduates that the commencement ceremony

for Southwestern High School would be Friday, May 29 at 7 p.m., and

**Happy
30th
Birthday
CODY
PRATT!
May 15th**

**Happy
42nd
Birthday
TRAVIS
McCOY!
May 14th**

Pulaski County High School’s would be Saturday, May 30 at 10 a.m.

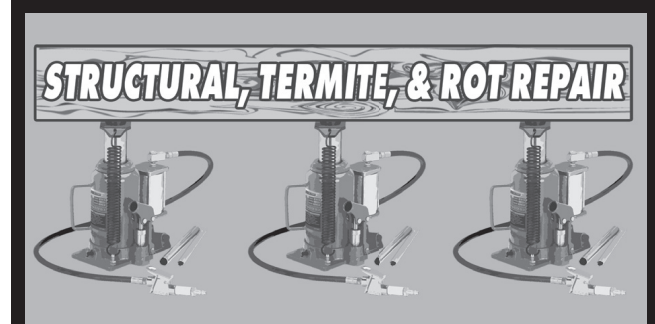
“I expect big crowds for those,” said Richardson, “so if you’re planning on going, you probably ought to get there early to get you a seat.”

Also at Tuesday’s meeting, the district presented its PRISM (Pulaski Recognizes Innovative Staff Members) Awards to four different individuals in the district, one each from the areas of elementary, middle school, high school, and the central office. Recognized were Jill Goff, family resource coordinator at Pulaski Elementary School; Jamie Tohill, assistant principal at Southern Middle

School; Miranda Sweeney, math educator at Southwestern High School; and

Teresa Nicholas, Director Curriculum and Technology and Assessment for the district.

Students from the Rogers Explorers program through The Center for Rural Development for rising ninth-graders, focusing on STEM areas of study (science, technology, engineering and math) were also recognized at the meeting. They included Hadley Melton, Rylan Simpson and Hayden Vanover of Southern Middle School and Finn Baird, Cameryn Brown, Owen Durham, John Harris, and Piper Harris (who wasn’t available).

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