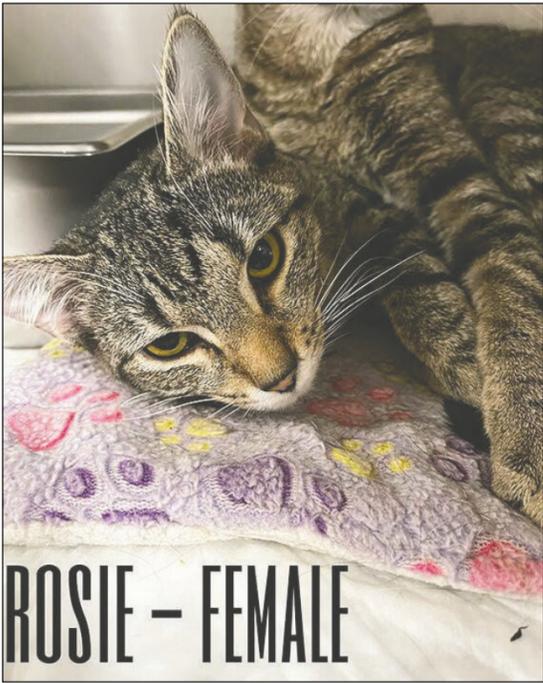
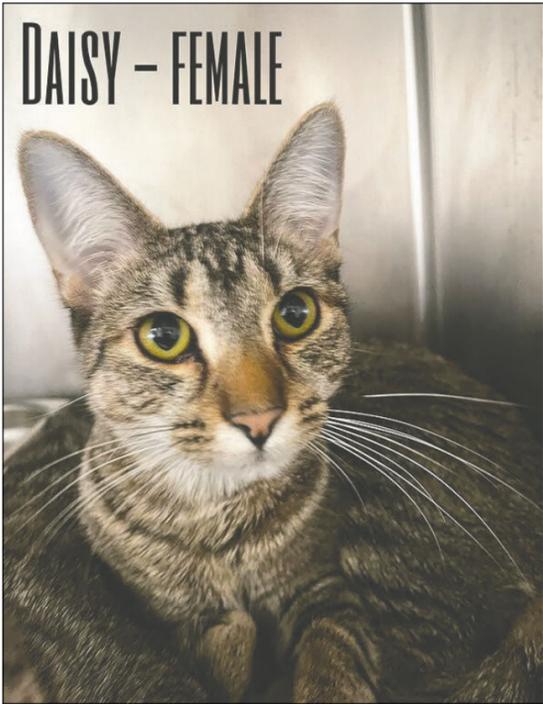


PLEAS FROM THE POUND



ROSIE - FEMALE

Rosie is a gentle, affectionate girl with the sweetest, most soulful eyes. She enjoys cozy naps, soft blankets and quiet moments with her favorite humans. Rosie has a calm, loving personality and would make a wonderful companion for someone looking for a loyal cuddle buddy. She enjoys being near you without being demanding — just happy to relax and share space. If you're looking for a soft-hearted, comforting presence in your home, Rosie is your girl.



DAISY - FEMALE

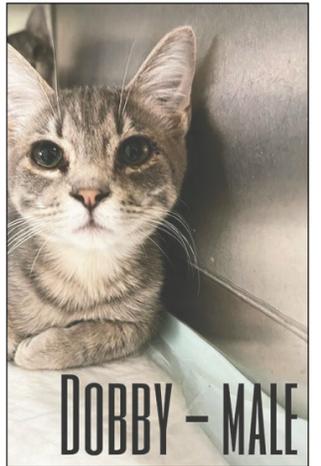
Daisy is bright, curious and full of charm. She loves to watch everything going on around her and is always ready to investigate something new. Her expressive eyes and playful personality make her impossible to resist. Daisy enjoys attention, gentle playtime, and being part of the action. She's the perfect mix of affectionate and fun — a wonderful companion for anyone wanting a lively, loving feline friend.



YODA - MALE

Yoda may be small in size, but his personality is mighty! Curious, observant and quietly charming, he loves watching the world around him and exploring at his own pace. He has a thoughtful, gentle nature and enjoys affection when he's comfortable.

Yoda is a wonderful mix of playful and peaceful — happy to chase a toy one minute and settle in for a nap the next. He's a special little guy with lots of love to give.



DOBBY - MALE

Dobby is a sweet and gentle boy with a soft heart and a loving personality. He enjoys attention, cozy spots to nap and being near his favorite people. With his expressive face and calm nature, Dobby makes fast friends with anyone who meets him. He's the kind of cat who will happily keep you company while you relax, read or watch TV. If you're looking for a loyal companion who brings comfort and quiet joy, Dobby is ready to be your best friend.

Sen. Steve West's Legislative update for week seven

SEN. STEVE WEST
27TH SENATE DISTRICT

As we reach the midpoint of the 2026 Legislative Session, I want to provide a clear and direct update on where things stand.

The Senate has maintained a deliberate pace. Nine of the Senate Majority's 10 priority bills have passed the Senate, reflecting months of interim preparation and thorough review in committee and on the floor. That steady approach will continue as we move into the most consequential phase of the session — the state budget.

THE BUDGET PROCESS: WHERE THINGS STAND

I have heard from many of you regarding the early House budget proposal, House Bill 500, and I appreciate those who have taken the time to share their thoughts.

It is important to clarify the process. The state budget begins in the House. The proposal currently under discussion has not yet passed that chamber and will

likely undergo changes before it ever reaches the Senate. No final decisions have been made.

When the House sends its version to us, the Senate will conduct a careful, independent review. Our responsibility is to examine long-term impacts, ensure fiscal stability, and make revisions where necessary.

As budget discussions move forward, our work remains guided by several core principles:

Maintaining a structurally balanced budget, where recurring revenues support recurring expenses.

Using one-time dollars responsibly to avoid long-term obligations.

Making transparent decisions that protect taxpayers while honoring commitments to public servants.

There is substantial work ahead before a final budget is enacted, and I will continue to keep you informed as the process unfolds.

This week, the Senate Judiciary Committee advanced Senate Bill (SB) 162, legislation I'm

sponsoring to improve Kentucky's juvenile diversion process. The bill removes the mandatory FAIR Team step in certain status offense cases — such as habitual truancy — allowing Court Designated Workers to respond more quickly while still working with families, schools, and community partners when appropriate.

In other news, the General Assembly's first bill of the 2026 Regular Session, SB 172, was signed into law. The measure helps address sudden spikes in electric bills caused by sharp increases in fuel costs. This is something many families know all too well, especially during extreme weather. The goal is to provide more stability and predictability for hardworking families, seniors on fixed incomes, and small businesses across our region.

Several other important bills also passed the Senate this week:

SB 9 supports housing development by streamlining regulations and expanding financing tools to help local communities grow and increase access to

affordable homes.

SB 47 expands state death benefits and tuition waivers to include search and rescue personnel who lose their lives in the line of duty.

SB 69 creates the Autism Spectrum Disorder Trust Fund and allows voluntary tax refund contributions to support autism research and services.

SJR 74 directs the creation of a statewide fiscal map of substance use disorder programs to improve coordination and accountability.

SB 85 allows public pension benefits to be placed in a Special Needs Trust to help families protect long-term care while maintaining eligibility for support programs.

SB 104 establishes a safety zone around first responders and strengthens penalties for those who interfere or threaten them, while protecting constitutional rights.

SB 141 modernizes public notice laws to improve transparency, expand digital access, and help control costs.

SB 152 strengthens school

leadership by affirming principals' authority while maintaining input from teachers and parents.

SB 159 improves coordination in missing persons cases to help locate individuals more quickly and support families.

Each of these measures now moves to the House for consideration.

As we enter the second half of the session, deadlines are approaching and work will continue at a fast pace. My focus remains on responsible, commonsense solutions that serve our communities.

Thank you for staying engaged and sharing your thoughts. Your feedback helps guide the work we do in Frankfort.

I look forward to keeping you updated as the 2026 Regular Session continues. If you have questions or ideas, feel free to contact my office at 502-564-8100 or email me at Steve.West@kylegislature.gov. You can learn more about bills, committees, and other updates from the Kentucky General Assembly at www.legislature.ky.gov.

KEEPING

FROM PAGE A1

The events Good created were commercial and industrial in nature, unlike the predominantly celebratory social affairs that have been The Prizing House's bread and butter, but Good's experience leaves little doubt of her capability as an organizer.

The building known as The Prizing House started out as a prizing warehouse for tobacco. It housed a factory at one point and was used for storage. Those of a certain age will also remember when it was a roller skating rink in the late 1970s/early 1980s.

Wayne Gossett purchased the property for use as a warehouse in the late oughts, but his wife, Nell Anne, had a greater vision.

Not just anyone could have looked at the brick pile hulking by the railroad tracks and imagined gleaming floors and chandeliers, but Nell Anne saw it for what it could be.

In her creative and capable hands, the old warehouse was transformed. The Prizing House opened in late 2009 and became a sought-after venue for weddings, award ceremonies, business dinners, proms and other events.

The cavernous space proved very flexible and could be staged to suit any vibe or group size. By using a system of pipes and draperies, the space could be made to feel intimate and cozy; wide open it could host well over 300.

Like Nell Anne, Withers and Good plan to do catering in-house, at least for now. Good, especially, loves entertaining. She and her husband, Chris, throw Derby and Super Bowl



Tom Zack Evans

Two couples, Chris and Leng Good and Bill Withers, teamed up to purchase The Prizing House.

parties for 100 guests.

The friends look forward to keeping the spirit of The Prizing House alive, but for the moment it's all still new; they are still taking stock. Withers laughed, "We haven't even pilfered through every nook and cranny yet."

When Nell Ann decided to sell The Prizing House, she

said she was not determined to find buyers who would keep it an event venue, but she is happy it turned out that way.

"We are thrilled to pass it into the hands of owners who share a deep commitment to excellence and hospitality. I have every confidence they will take it to even greater heights."

SCHOOL

FROM PAGE A1

the behavior of other students and school personnel and involve alleged racist and homophobic slurs made against the 20 or so students during the days leading up to the protest and while they were preparing to leave school last Friday.

Superintendent Harry Burchett confirmed the district is aware of the allegations and launched an investigation Monday.

In a letter to the Democrat, Burchett said participants in the walkout who were in school this week were each given the opportunity to air concerns. "After meeting with participating students, any suggestion that HCHS staff promoted the harassment of any group of students has been verified as third-party hearsay at this time." He called for anyone who might have been a "first-hand eye witness to inappropriate action by students or staff" to come forward with the information.

His full response is in a letter accompanying this report.

While off school grounds, students involved characterized their time in front of the old courthouse as positive.

"Overall, the reaction from the community was very positive," said sophomore Ivory Woodard. "We got a lot of positive honks in the street, some art students made signs for us to protest, and a lot of people came to school wearing blue to show solidarity to our cause."

Woodard said as a woman of color she had always been

willing to speak out against police brutality.

"If I didn't speak out, I felt like I was enabling it," she said.

Senior Eva Calder said she was inspired to join after hearing news of other school walkouts in the area. She said the point was not to express hatred but "to turn out in support of our Latino community members and join a national movement for change."

Senior Carter Hatfield said his "anti-authoritarian political views" motivated him to get behind the walkout as soon as he learned about it. He took on the task of getting the permit to protest and filling it out.

"My family actually helped me plan and organize and were very supportive, which surprised me," Hatfield said.

Calder said a few people even got out of their cars and joined them for a while, and "Capilla, the Mexican restaurant adjacent to where we were protesting was very supportive" and sent ice water over.

"I think I speak for all my fellow organizers when I say our parents were very supportive, not only ideologically, but just the fact we were eager for civic engagement was a breath of fresh air for them," Calder said.

Woodard said, "Eva's mother was with us the whole way to ensure safety and to make sure that nobody bothered us specifically on the walk to the courthouse." Other parents were present, keeping a watchful eye while giving the group of young people space.

Calder said a few people even got out of their cars and joined them for awhile, and

"Capilla, the Mexican restaurant adjacent to where we were protesting was very supportive" and sent ice water over.

Hatfield agreed that "The reactions were generally positive. A lot more people than expected seemed to support our cause."

Not everyone responded to the protest positively, however. One mother said she witnessed a man telling her middle school-aged daughter to go to the airport and go back to Mexico.

Woodard described being cussed at and flipped off and said trucks blew exhaust fumes in response to the protest.

The protest was livestreamed on Instagram. Screenshots of the livestream submitted to the Cynthiana Democrat reveal homophobic slurs in the chat.

The walkout was organized by students and was in no way an activity supported by the school district.

A message from the Harrison County High School Administration Team went out to families Feb. 6 stating they were aware of "a potential student walkout" and saying the school's name and likeness had been used by the group without permission, which suggested "school sponsorship." Such unauthorized use, the message went on to say, could "result in administrative action."

The letter concluded that though the school supports student expression it does not "sponsor or organize walkouts during the school day."

Assistant Superintendent Jenny Lynn

SEE SCHOOL/PAGE A3