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EASTER EGG HUNTS ARE ON THE HORIZON

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Fiscal Court adopts resolution to support medical hemp

BY DEVON WILLIAMS
NEWS REPORTER

NEW BUSINESS

On Tuesday, March 10, the Harrison County Fiscal Court gathered for their first meeting of the month.

After a call to order, prayer and pledge, Judge Executive Jason Marshall made a motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting, which carried.

With no old business to discuss, the meeting moved straight to the new.

-Visiting the Fiscal Court was Martin Smith with the Kentucky Hemp Farmers Association to discuss House Bill 532, which is moving through Frankfort.

Judge Marshall explained that the Bill revolves around medical hemp products and is intended to set quality assurance and safety rules for how medical hemp is grown, handled, processed and marketed in Kentucky.

"This Bill is a combination of all of the things we've learned in order to protect the farmer, protect the

consumer and to build out the infrastructure necessary to align with President Trump's executive order signed Dec. 18, 2025," opened Smith.

Elaborating on the Executive Order, Smith said it's "to work towards getting this stabilization for full spectrum CBD to be offered to Medicare recipients 65 years or older. So that'll allow them to have a \$500 allowance. This Bill is to help align ourselves with that, so that when it happens we can be first in the country.

"Not only will we be able to supply

those here in Cynthiana and Harrison County those great quality products, we'll be able to supply the nation. Being first in the nation means we have a market available to us. So that's the hopes of this Bill ... I respectfully ask you to vote for this resolution and help us to set that pace..."

Immediately, a motion was made to adopt the resolution HB532 to support medical hemp in Kentucky, which carried.

-Moving on, a motion was made to consider approval of 2026-27 Jail Budget.

"It looks like the jail budget has increased some, you know, not bad considering," Judge Marshall noted. "Last year's budget was \$1,101,525.00, so this year what we have protected for 2026-27 is \$1,111,100.00. So it was a \$9,575.00 increase in the jail budget, which is not bad."

Personnel cost is the only thing that increased, according to Melody McClure.

A motion was made to approve the budget, which carried.

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Betsy Smith

4-H Rabbit Club members from around the area faced a daunting task: identifying 40 breeds of rabbits.

4-H Rabbit Skill-A-Thon a grueling test of knowledge

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

On Saturday, March 14, 20 4-H Rabbit Club members from Harrison, Jessamine, Laurel, Nelson, Pendleton and Campbell counties attended a Skill-A-Thon contest hosted by the Harrison County 4-H Rabbit Club at the McCauley Building at the Fairgrounds.

In its second year, the skill-a-thon was organized by Holly Laytart, Harrison County Extension Assistant, 4-H Youth Development. Laytart leads the club and knows a thing or two about rabbits; she currently has

800 in her barn. She raises two different breeds for meat.

The Rabbit Skill-A-Thon is a demanding test of knowledge, much of it scientific. The young people spent several hours moving from station to station as they were tested on multiple aspects of rabbit-related knowledge.

No cell phones were allowed; chatting with other 4-H members at the stations was forbidden. The concentration on the young people's faces showed the seriousness of the business at hand.

Banish any notion you might have of the 4-H Rabbit Club members being a group of be-smitten kids seeking an opportunity to cuddle cute and fluffy bunnies; these youngsters know their stuff.

Contest events covered everything from the



Betsy Smith

4-H Rabbit Club members from multiple counties study pictures at the Breed ID station at the March 14 Skill-A-Thon Contest. At right is Harrison County 4-H member Oliver Newcomb.

basic knowledge needed to raise a healthy rabbit to the skills needed to show one.

At the Breed ID station, a long table was covered

with photos of rabbits of various breeds. Junior members had to identify 30 breeds; seniors had to

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Devon Williams

Eli Marsh, owner of Berry Farm Tire Repair, hoists Business of the Year award.

Berry Farm Tire Repair named Business of the Year

BY DEVON WILLIAMS
NEWS REPORTER

On Thursday, Jan. 29, the Cynthiana-Harrison County Chamber of Commerce held their annual Community Impact Awards for 2026 at the Baptist Life Center.

The ceremony was provided by the Chamber to honor and celebrate some of Cynthiana's brightest stars with varying awards and public recognition. One such award was the "Business of the Year Award" which was given to Berry Farm Tire Repair, owned by Eli Marsh.

Reflecting on the purpose of the Chamber Awards, Board President Mollie Smith noted the evening as an "opportunity to reflect on the impact of local businesses and individuals who invest their time and resources in strengthening our community.

"From small businesses and entrepreneurs to civic leaders and volunteers. Each honoree represents the best of what it means to serve the public."

Presenting the Business of the Year award was Tom Zach Evans representing Field and Main Bank.

"This award recognizes a business that doesn't just serve customers, it serves

community. Tonight's honoree has built his reputation by doing the job the right way with honesty, integrity and with all good work delivered the pride.

"What makes Berry Farm Tire Repair truly stand out isn't just growth, it's grit," applauded Evans. "The nomination letter said 'They will jump out of the bed at 3 a.m. and drive wherever needed just to simply help. That kind of responsiveness is rare and it speaks volumes about the character behind the business."

"They keep the everyday driver safe and moving while they also go above and beyond for our rural way of life. Servicing road department vehicles, making house-calls to farms to get tractors, combines and equipment up and running when time matters most. They understand the urgency of a flat tire in a hayfield, a tobacco wagon that needs to get to the barn, or a farmer racing the rain to finish a harvest ... and they show up."

Evans went on to highlight the business' efforts in helping others local tire shops and in setting up a community service by collecting canned goods for the local food drive.

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