

HCHS homecoming candidates



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The 2026 Harlan County High School football homecoming will take place on Sept. 4 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the Harlan County-East Ridge football game. Senior candidates include, from left, front row: Abbie Blackburn, Destiny Cooper and Katie Smith; second row: Maddie Gray, Emmalyn Branson, Kendall Brock and Emily Creech; third row: Harley Rice, Braelynn Langley and Madi Nolan; back row Rheagan Halcomb and Aubrey Noe.



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Junior candidates include, from left, front row: Emily Ositis, Lauren Lewis and Anabelle Collett; second row: Maylea Lambert, Charli Shepherd, Carmen Thomas and Gracyn Lewis; third row: Peyton Osborne, Lilly Skidmore and Madi Lemar; back row: Ashlynn Williamson, Destinee Hensley, Mallory Miles and Taylor Reeves; not pictured: Briley Sergeant.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sophomore candidates include, from left, front row: Shasta Brackett, Paisleigh Bledsoe and Maddy Fields; middle row: Reagan Clem and Macy Sizemore; back row: Shyann Halcomb.



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Freshmen candidates include, from left, front row: Natalie Flanary, Brooklyn Daniels and Braylie Wilson; second row: Chloe Harris, Taylynn Napier, Kharmen Dixon and Preston Muncy; third row: Lilly Blair, Caroline Patterson and Magey Letendre; back row: Destiny Woodard, Emily Allen and Sairyn Farley; not pictured: Brinley Hensley.

JOHNSON

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week . . . they're hoping to have that completed by Sept. 25," said Johnson.

Johnson went on to provide an update on preschool enrollment, stating there are currently 55 students attending—a number the board is "tickled to death" about.

"All three locations are almost at capacity, and I think we have a couple more that are scheduled to start this week. So, all three locations are up and run-

ing, and we're hearing fantastic things from all three locations," Johnson stated.

In other news, it was confirmed that the Harlan County School District will still have access to the fields on the site of the old Cumberland High School for athletic events, which were recently signed over to the city of Cumberland by Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College.

"Nothing will change as far as the use of those fields," said Johnson. "The city of Cumberland has graciously allowed our students the

opportunity to continue using [them], so we're thankful for that."

Other items on the agenda were as follows:

- Approval of minutes
- Approve payment of claims
- Monthly financial report
- Approval of JACES and Cawood primary talent pool to travel to Johnson City on Sept. 18
- Approval of travel to various student athletic and academic events throughout the school year
- Leave of absence approvals
- Memorandum of agree-

ment with Morehead State University

Approval or shortened school days for special education students

Bids for school food service equipment

Surplus food service equipment

Emergency certification for an HCHS teacher

Approval of a \$4,000 payment to DECO Architects for months two and three of the Harlan County High School roof construction project

Letter of intent with Milestone Towers

COUNCIL

Continued from 1A

enjoy lower fire insurance rates.

"We're trying to get [our PPC score] to a 3. Just going from a 5 to 4, everybody's fire insurance rates should have went down considerably. So, if we can get this thing to a 3 — it's going to take some doing, but we're going to try to get there," Meadors stated. If this can be achieved, Harlan citizens will likely notice their insurance rates getting even cheaper. According to fire chief James Billings, the acquisition of the new fire truck will help "tremendously" with reaching this goal.

As for the old fire truck, it is being purchased by a retired fire chief in Lexington, to whom the vehicle holds deep sentimental value as the truck used during his first assignment many decades ago.

Meadors went on to commend the Harlan City Fire Department for a job well done, having taken swift action upon receiving calls about a fire in one of the high-rise apartment buildings late Sunday

night. "That's always concerning, simply because you never know what's going to happen, you know — you've got a lot of elderly and a lot of handicapped people over there who may have trouble escaping. As usual, the fire department got there [and] did a pretty good job," said Meadors.

"My hat's off to [the police department], too," Billings added. "My guys were going up the steps, and Travis asked me what he could do . . . There was an elderly lady in a wheelchair, and I sent Travis to the second floor, and they took care of that little old lady there," he said.

A neighbor, who helped quell the flames before firefighters arrived on the scene, suffered smoke inhalation and received medical treatment by the fire department until paramedics arrived.

In other news, the council confirmed that property tax rates will remain the same over the next year — \$0.466 for real property and \$0.4879 for personal property per \$100 of assessed value.



AARON ROWE

Pictured is the 1986 Heavy Rescue fire truck, which was approved for purchase by the Harlan City Council.

Proposed Tax Notification

The Harlan Independent Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax levy of 49.6 cents on real property and 49.6 cents on personal property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 50.5 cents on real property and 50.5 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$743,705.43. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 49.6 cents on real property and 49.6 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$666,831.08. Of this amount, \$148,003.04 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 49.6 cents on real property and 49.6 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$666,831.07.

The proposed rate is not expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year.

This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.07.

The general Assembly as required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.

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