Caverna Prepares Students For College And Careers

By **Mary Beth Sallee**
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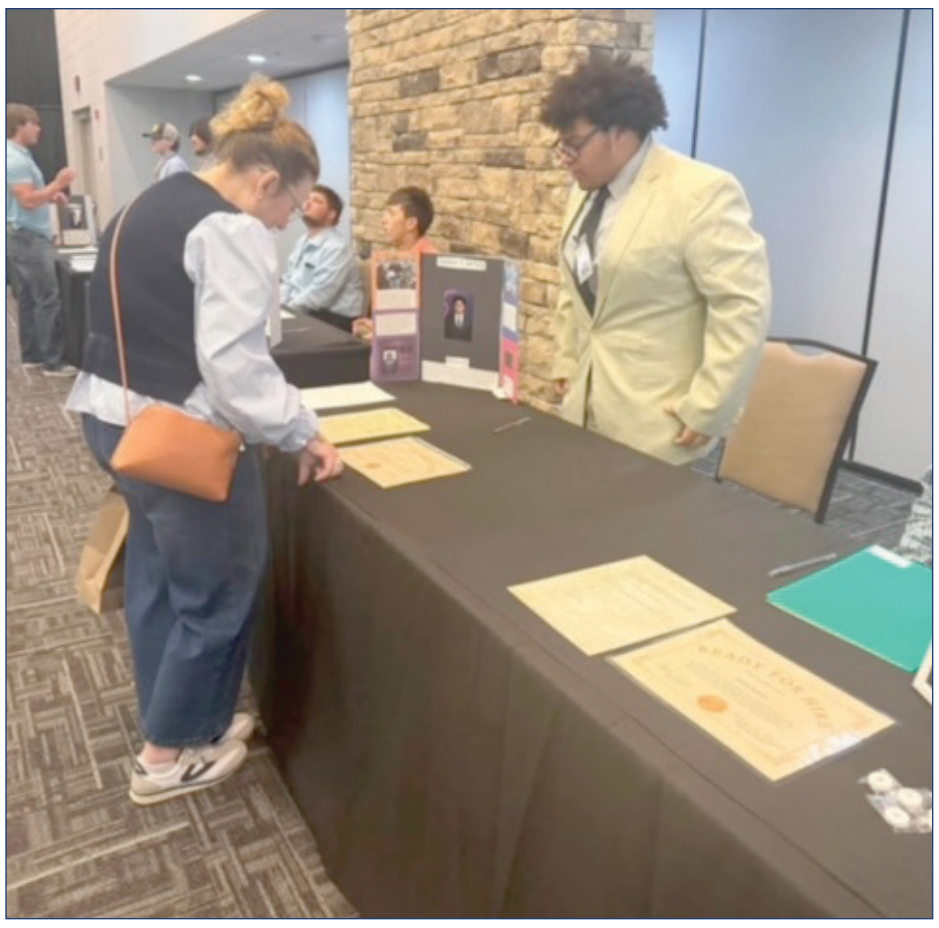

PHOTO | SUBMITTED
Caverna senior Jaden Carney participated in a reverse career fair during the 2025-26 school year.

For Caverna students, preparing for life after high school can begin years before they ever walk across the graduation stage.

That preparation showed in the district's most recent graduating class, when every student who participated in graduation met the state's standard for postsecondary readiness.

"We were very pleased with our postsecondary readiness efforts from last year. One-hundred percent of the students who walked the line at graduation last year were postsecondary ready," Caverna College and Career Readiness Coach Nathan Wyatt said.

Postsecondary readiness is part of Kentucky's school accountability system and is designed to measure if students are prepared for their next step after high school, whether that means continuing their education or entering the workforce.

Under state guidelines, students can demonstrate readiness in several ways, including meeting college-readiness benchmarks, completing qualifying dual-credit coursework, earning credit through certain advanced examinations, participating in approved apprenticeships, cooperative education or internships, and earning industry-recognized certifications, licenses, or credentials.

At Caverna, however, preparing students for those benchmarks does not begin during their senior year.

"Students in elementary school begin getting exposure to different career paths through local field trips, guest speakers, and other presentations," Wyatt explained. "In sixth grade, all students begin working on an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). The purpose of the ILP is to align student interests with career paths. Students take online interest inventories and then explore careers aligned to the results of the inventories. Students are required to revisit the ILPs each year until graduation."

As students move through school and their interests become clearer, Caverna offers a wide range of career pathways, including Business and Marketing, Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism, Industrial Maintenance, Education and Teaching, Health Sciences, and Media Arts. Each pathway includes multiple course options and opportunities for students to pursue certifications. Industrial Maintenance students have an additional option this school year with the introduction of welding for maintenance.

Students can also earn college credit while still in high school through dual-credit courses offered through multiple Kentucky Community and Technical Colleges, with Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKYCTC) being the most commonly used, as well as Western Kentucky University. Dual-credit classes are associated with each of Caverna's pathways, while industry certifications are available in Graphic Design, Biomedical, Industrial Maintenance, Culinary Arts, Computer Science, and Business and Marketing.

The district has expanded those options for the current school year, particularly for students who want to earn college credit before receiving their high school diploma.

"This year we have many more dual credit classes than we've had in the past," Wyatt said. "New dual credit offerings this year include culinary arts, biomedical sciences, and graphic design."

The opportunities are not limited to courses and certifications. Caverna also connects students with colleges and employers, giving them opportunities to see potential careers firsthand and, in some cases, gain experience in the workplace.

"We take our students to multiple job fairs and college fairs each year. We also visit several colleges and local industry based on the students' career pathways," Wyatt said. "Last year, we had around 20 students participate in work-based learning opportunities through local employers. Also last year, Dart Container came to school in the spring and interviewed some of our students. Four students were offered full-time employment to start immediately after graduation."

For students interested in a field that Caverna does not offer on its own campus, partnerships with nearby programs provide additional options.

"Caverna also partners with the trade schools at Hart and Barren Counties. So, in the small chance that Caverna doesn't offer a student's pathway in-house, they have the opportunity to go to one of these trade schools and pursue more career opportunities," Wyatt explained. "We've also partnered with the Crystal Onyx Job Corps this year to send students for even more industry certifications."

The work also factors into the district's state accountability measures. Students deemed postsecondary ready earn one point toward accountability, while those who earn industry certifications in a high-demand field can earn 1.25 points.

From career exploration beginning in the early grades to dual credit, industry certifications, work-based learning, and partnerships outside the district, Caverna offers students multiple ways to begin preparing for what comes after high school.

And while the district may be smaller than some of its neighbors, Wyatt said its size does not limit the opportunities available to students: "Caverna might be a small school, but we have big offerings when it comes to college and career readiness."

Munfordville Car Show To Benefit Hart County Search & Rescue

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Classic cars, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, and more will roll into downtown Munfordville Saturday, September 26 for the Munfordville Car Show, with proceeds from the event benefiting Hart County Search & Rescue.

The car show will be held at the Hart County Courthouse, located at 200 Main St. in Munfordville. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. CST and continue until noon, with awards presented at 1 p.m. CST. The entry fee is $20 per entry.

Classes will include motorcycles, rat rods, tractors, 1949 and older, 1950-69, 1970-89, 1990-2009, and 2010-2026. Awards will be presented to the top three entries in each class, along with Hart County SAR Choice, Tourism Choice, and Top 30 awards.

The event will also feature a little "Dukes of Hazzard" nostalgia. Daisy Duke tribute artist Shannon Prince and Uncle Jesse tribute artist David Daniels are scheduled to appear for meet-and-greet and photo opportunities.

The Big M Grill will be on site providing concessions, and booth spaces are available to rent.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come downtown, enjoy the vehicles, grab something to eat, meet the tribute artists, and help support Hart County Search & Rescue.

For more information about the car show or booth space, call 270-537-1664 or 270-524-5343.

▪UNCLAIMED CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT

to Kentuckians. Treasurer Metcalf's goal is simple: get this money back into the pockets of Kentuckians who deserve it.

The inaugural week will bring the Treasury's unclaimed property resources directly to communities while highlighting the state's efforts to return money to its rightful owners.

Kentuckians can search for unclaimed property at treasury.ky.gov.

9/24/26 **Super** Crossword

Answers

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Munfordville Residents Earn SNHU President's List Honors

Southern New Hampshire University has named two Munfordville students to its Summer 2026 President's List.

LaBradford Rice and Brandon Gillespie, both of Munfordville, earned the academic honor for the summer term, which ran from May through August.

To qualify for the President's List, full-time undergraduate students must earn a grade-point average of 3.7 or higher during the reporting term.

Southern New Hampshire University is a private, nonprofit institution serving more than 200,000 students through online programs and its campus in Manchester, New Hampshire.

CAVERNA BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGETED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2027

REVENUES	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Outlay	Building Fund	Debt Service Fund	Food Service Fund
Beginning Balance	3,343,770	14,000				75,000
Revenue from local sources	4,203,447		6,800	283,084		7,000
Revenue from state sources	4,511,254	608,711	49,900	61,537	56,506	52,000
Revenue from federal sources	66,500	1,074,924				741,432
Other revenue/Fund Transfers	22,000	10,482			225,248	
TOTAL REVENUES	$ 12,146,971	$ 1,708,117	$ 56,700	$ 344,621	$ 281,754	$ 875,432
EXPENDITURES						
Instruction	5,513,743	1,276,932				
Student Support Services	543,567	89,480				
Instructional Staff Support Services	545,988	195,791				
District Admin Support	1,642,309					
School Admin Support	924,768					
Business Support Services	268,937					
Plant, Operations & Maintenance	1,048,377	40,000	56,700			
Student Transportation	983,584					
Community Services	1,500	105,924				
Food Service Operations						853,432
Debt Service					225,248	
Fund Transfers	10,482			225,248	56,506	22,000
Contingency	672,716			119,373		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	12,146,971	1,708,117	56,700	344,621	281,754	875,432

* From Working Budget submitted to KDE in September 2026 per KRS 424.250