



The Herald-News

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State Report Tallies Tens of Millions in Media, Travel and Event Costs



▲ PHOTO | KENTUCKY AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

State Auditor Allison Ball presents a recent review of executive branch spending to the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee on Feb. 10.

JOBEnews.com

Kentucky executive branch agencies spent more than \$39 million on advertising and communications and millions more on travel, conferences and contracted services in the 2025 fiscal year, according to a report released by Allison Ball, Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts, on Feb. 10.

Governor Andy Beshear disputed some of the findings a day after the report

was released in a Team Kentucky update after a press member asked about the findings, likening it to a “political attack.”

The report lists \$39,055,133.96 in advertising expenditures and notes that every executive branch entity maintains some form of communications staff. Payments included \$2,488,789.77 to

REPORT
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Senate Bill 7 Advances to Offer Accessible Driver's Licensing Services Across Kentucky



JOBEnews.com

Kentuckians seeking more convenient access to driver's licensing services may get additional options in 2027, thanks to Senate Bill 7 (SB 7), legislation

recently passed by the Kentucky Senate. The bill aims to alleviate the burden on residents, particularly those in rural areas, who currently face

LICENSING
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Rescind the Vote

BY **PJ MARTIN**
EDITOR | THE HERALD-NEWS

The Metcalfe County Fiscal Court held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 12, with the following attendees: Judge/Executive Larry Wilson, Magistrates Ronnie Miller, Daniel Bragg, Harvey Hawkins, and Kevin Crain, County Attorney Sharon Howard, and Treasurer/Fiscal Court Clerk Page Edwards.

Also in attendance were Financial Officer Connie Taylor, Occupational Tax/ABC Admin. Lorrie Gilpin, Emergency Management Director Adam Bennett, Solid Waste Coordinator Kim Jandt, Road Supervisor Chris Compton, and Herald-News editor PJ Martin.

Judge Wilson declared a quorum present, and the agenda was adopted following



▲ PHOTO | PJ MARTIN

Magistrates Ronnie Miller and Daniel Bragg, as Bragg explained his thoughts on buying equipment.

motions by Bragg and Crain.

The minutes from the January 22 meeting were approved after motions by Hawkins and Bragg. When Judge Wilson asked for any discussion, Miller said, “Yeah! On the 5th paragraph down on the fireworks celebration...

I’d like to rescind that motion.”

This was very unusual and caught most in attendance by surprise. Judge Wilson responded, “Why?”

Edwards explained, “The thing about it is they were needing to know because they

have to pay upfront and get that scheduled. Well, do you mind if we ask why you changed your mind?”

Miller replied, “Well, it’s a lot of money, and I wasn’t really thinking that day. Sometimes

RESCIND
CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Who will be the 2026 Educator of the Year & Educator Idol?

BY **KIM HARWOOD**
E-M CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In the year 2002, the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to establish an Annual Metcalfe

County Educator of the Year Award to be presented at the Annual Senior Celebrity Banquet held in the spring. The Chamber accepts nominations from

the public. A selected committee reviews and selects the recipient. The honored educator and his/her family will be guests of the chamber at the banquet.

The criteria for the Metcalfe County Educator of the Year Award stated that the award must be

IDOL
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Edmonton-Metcalfe County Chamber of Commerce

25th Annual Metcalfe County Educator of the Year Award

2026 Nomination Form

2002 Recipient Becky Nunnally, EES

2003 Recipient Carol Perkins, MCMS

2004 Recipient Fay Garrett, MCHS

2005 Recipient Kelly Bell, Principal NME

2006 Recipient Ronnie Smith, MCHS

2007 Allen Trotter, Principal MCMS

2008 Russell Clemmons, EES

2009 Grant Landrum, NME & SSE

2010 Rita McMurrey, Principal Sixth Grade Center

2011 Jay White, SSE

2012 Anita Love, MCHS

2013 Byron Jeffries, previous Superintendent

2014 Bennie Stephens, Secondary Instruction

2015 Betty Branstetter, MCES

2016 Jenny Stotts-Lundy, MCES

2017 Allyson Davis, MCES

2018 Kelly Shaw, MCHS High School

2019 Dr. Benny Lile, Superintendent

2020 Dawn Harbison, MCHS

2021 Kim Coleman, MCES Guidance Counselor

2022 Scott Roach, MCHS

2023 Lynn Hawkins, MCHS

2024 Lesley London, MCMS

2025 Bryant Stockton, MCHS

The following is a list of criteria for selecting Educator of the Year:

1. Be a full-time educator in the Metcalfe County School System.

2. Possess the ability to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities.

3. Ability and willingness to work cooperatively with fellow professionals.

4. Ability to work effectively with a variety of public agencies in the community.

5. Desire to keep abreast of current educational theories and practices.

6. Ability and willingness to make contributions to the field of education, and

7. Provide the encouragement and support necessary to ensure each student's maximum level of achievement as a student, family member, and member of society.

Nominee's Name

School

Your name (optional)

Why do you feel this individual should be the Metcalfe County Educator of the Year? (May use additional paper)

Please see the attached explanation

Pease return form to: Edmonton-Metcalfe County Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 42

Edmonton, KY 42129

If you have questions, please call the chamber office at 432-3222 or email metchamb@scrtc.com

Please feel free to add additional information on an attached page.

Deadline for entry: March 16, 2026

Edmonton-Metcalfe County Chamber of Commerce

19th Annual Metcalfe County Educator Idol Award

2026 Nomination Form

2009 Mrs. Billie Sue Blakeman

2011 Cecelia Hurt

2013 Gary Richardson

2015 Harold Chambers

2017 Mary Lou Feese

2019 Elbert Hunley, Jr.

2021 Judy Polson

2023 Lenita Hughes

2025 Bonnie Shaw

Previous Award Recipients:

2008 Cortez Butler

2010 Susan Chambers

2012 James Howard Young

2014 Connie Scott

2016 Mrs. Ruth Butler

2018 Ruby Shirley

2020 Howard Bruce Keel

2022 Kay Harbison

2024 Linda Branstetter

The following is a list of criteria for selecting Educator Idol of the Year:

1. Be a retiree of the Metcalfe County School Systems

2. Award not given posthumously.

3. Recipients of the Metcalfe County Educator of the Year Award are not eligible for this award.

Nominee's Name

School

Your name (optional)

Why do you feel this individual should be the Metcalfe County Educator Idol of the Year? (May use additional paper)

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