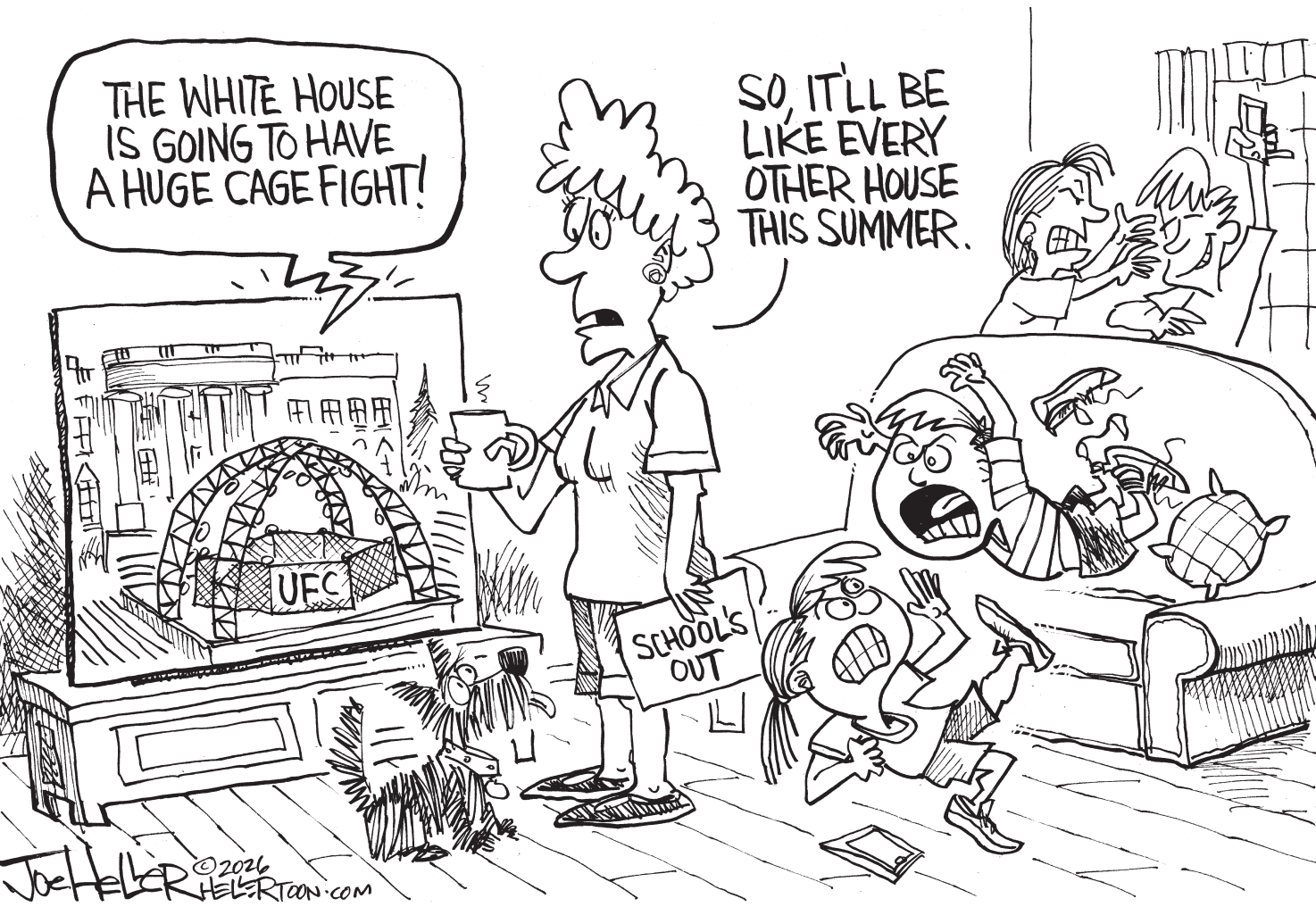


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The Herald News

# OPINION

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## Working on a Farm Successor as Part of a Retirement Plan



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AFFAIRS

Are you one of the many farmers without an identified farm successor? Purdue University says that's around 75%, and about half expect nonfamily members to take over. A gradual shift of responsibilities and ownership, plus an extended mentoring period, can help ensure the continued success of the farm business.

After checking out a candidate's experience and references, a short

trial period with paid labor can be a good step. This probationary period can help both of you assess how well you work together, how your daily priorities match up, and how you deal with setbacks.

A phased transition plan can follow, based on the goals and capabilities of you and your successor. Responsibilities for farm decisions and management can be shifted gradually or by specific enterprises.

A written transition plan can ensure that timing and responsibilities are clear. A five-year plan for major progress will tell you if it's working and will reassure the new farmer that his/her time investment in your business is on track.

You have gained skills and have built

a business to withstand financial, weather, and market risks. A new farmer will benefit from your knowledge of your land and from your experience in the business. Remaining a minority partner or a mentor gives access to your valuable advice.

But your successor will be operating in a world with a market and regulatory climate that differs from when you farmed. You have to be prepared to accept that decisions will be made that would not match yours.

You'll need to eventually accept that you've provided as much help as you can and that the business has moved beyond your reach. It will succeed or fail on its owner's strengths, just as it did when you started out.

## KSP Adds Specialized "Rook" Vehicle to Fleet

Staff Report

FRANKFORT — Gov. Andy Beshear announced Thursday that Kentucky State Police has added a specialized "Rook" armored vehicle to its fleet to improve safety during high-risk incidents.

The tactical vehicle is designed for hostage situations, barricaded subjects, riot response and natural disaster operations. Its compact size allows it to operate in confined areas where larger armored vehicles may be limited.

The Rook includes interchangeable attachments, including a hydraulic fork for removing obstacles and an armored personnel cage that allows troopers to safely approach dangerous scenes.

Officials said the vehicle is the only one of its kind in Kentucky and one of just 108 nationwide. It was purchased in December 2025 using asset forfeiture funds seized through criminal investigations, with no taxpayer funding used.

"Our brave law enforcement officers put themselves in harm's way to make our communities safer," Beshear said. "Providing them the resources they need not only boosts public safety, but also helps ensure they can return



▲ PHOTO | KSP  
**Specialized "Rook" Vehicle**

home safely to their family at the end of each shift."

KSP Commissioner Phillip Burnett Jr. said the vehicle was purchased through funds generated from successful criminal investigations and will help troopers safely resolve critical incidents.

Since its acquisition, KSP's Special

Response Team has deployed the Rook eight times, using it to breach barricades and protect troopers during high-risk warrant operations.

KSP Special Response Team Captain Dallas Greer said the vehicle improves safety for officers, civilians, and suspects alike during dangerous situations.

### MARKET

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Bennett, Solid Waste Coordinator Kim Jandt, and reporting for the Herald-News, PJ Martin.

Prior to the fiscal court meeting, a public hearing was held for the purpose of obtaining citizens' comments regarding the possible uses of the County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds. No comments written or verbal were received, and the meeting was closed.

The regular fiscal court meeting was opened by Judge Wilson, who declared a quorum present, and the agenda was adopted after motions by Miller and Bragg.

Next was the approval of the minutes from the May 14th regular meeting after motions by Hawkins and Crain.

Metcalf County Farmers Market manager Vickie Harris was in attendance to discuss the annual donation to the farmers' market. "It's donation time again this year, and I have a few little numbers I want to throw out to give an impact of what all this does for us... We were able to put money back into the community through this program to the tune of about 40,000 extra dollars. Our total sales for the year were right at \$100,000."

"The senior program is finally up and running. There's a little. Kentucky was a little slow getting some things done this year, so it went live last week."

She related how important this market was to so many, especially with no grocery store in Edmonton. She also stated that she has been looking for a milk vendor, so milk would be available at the market. "But you know, we have bread, meat, I now have pork, beef, and chicken. All the fruits and vegetables you could want."

Bragg asked about the vouchers.

Harris explained, "I actually have a coupon. That is worth \$5. And one of the ways we realize whether they're eligible or not and in need is through the senior voucher program that the Bowling Park participates in...they apply there, so they have to meet the criteria of 60 years old and financially. Then, Kentucky also has what's called Kentucky Double Dollars.... we've been open one Friday with it, and I'm done well over halfway done with it...They have to be eligible for that."

To show how important it is to some people, she related, "I had a lady who was in the hospital that didn't get to apply. She stood at my table and cried the other day, because she didn't get it."

Bragg stated, "I'm making a motion to give them \$2,000. It's a good program. Not only does it give healthy food to people who might have trouble buying healthy food, if every dollar goes back to them, they get the county farmer... I make a motion to give them \$2,000."

Judge Wilson stated, "Motion by Daniel Bragg, seconded by Harvey Hawkins, to donate \$2,000. Any discussions?"

There was no discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously. In previous years, the donation was only \$1,000.

Although on the agenda, Harold Stilts was not in attendance; however, he had called Bragg and given him the Branstetter Park

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### Number Correction

In the May 27th edition of the *Herald-News*, we reported on the election results. The detailed chart was correct, but the numbers in the recap of the clerk's race were not. These are the correct vote totals. Current County Clerk Shannon Fields will also remain in her position for another term as she defeated newcomer Amy Wilson by a vote of 817 to 340.