

MEAL

FROM PAGE A1

to address senior meal needs. "When we asked (his) budget secretary how much money every department, every program needed, they said, 'We are not going to tell you,'" said Sen. Craig Richardson, who represents Christian, Caldwell and Muhlenberg counties in the Kentucky General Assembly. Richardson noted that it is a best practice of the general assembly to allocate only the funds that are necessary for a program, and he said legislators cannot make an appropriate budget when the executive branch refuses to let the general assembly know how much money each department needs. The state experienced a similar shortfall late last year for the Senior Meal Program but was able to find an additional allocation of \$9.1 million, and the Pennyriple Area Development District was able to resume providing its meals five days a week and did not have to cut anyone. The development district determines who is served through the senior meals program and has the contract with the state aging department, while the Pennyriple Allied Community Services is the exclusive service provider of aging services in the nine Pennyriple counties, including the senior meals. An announcement earlier this month from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services informed

development districts again about this recent funding change, with a letter from Victoria Elridge, commissioner for the state Department for Aging and Independent Living, noting that the enacted budget for the 2027 Fiscal Year includes a reduction of \$9.1 million in funding allocated for the Expanded Senior Meal Program, in addition to a 4% and 7% reduction across the aging department that she said will impact the senior meal program and others in the next two years. Cabinet Spokesman Kendra Steele noted that the state is committed to fighting hunger and has long been aware of the critical role the senior meals program plays in supporting Kentuckians, and she said state officials did make an effort to let legislators know the need for funding. "The Beshear administration repeatedly made the general assembly aware of the additional funding needed for senior meals ahead of and during the 2026-2027 budget session," said Steele, executive director of the cabinet's Office of Public Affairs, in a statement to the newspaper. Steele pointed out that, during the pandemic, the administration doubled the number of meals produced every week to eliminate an existing waiting list and ensure that no seniors would go hungry. **MORE SUPPORT THAN ANY ADMINISTRATION** "Since then, Gov. Beshear has directed more state funding toward

the program than any other administration in the commonwealth's history," she said, adding that the need increased last year as some area development districts exhausted all previously budgeted funding for the state's meal program for senior citizens. Steele said the governor took action at that time by allocating an additional \$9.1 million for senior meals, a step supported by the Republican-led general assembly. For the next two years, the governor proposed adding \$18.2 million to fund senior meals, or \$9.1 million per year, the public affairs director noted in her reply. Steele said the Republican supermajority failed to approve the governor's proposal of \$18.2 million for the senior meals, despite knowing that the need had outpaced previously budgeted amounts. She also noted that, even though the federal government provided \$11.6 million per year for senior meals, the program is reliant on state funding to fill the need. "Not approving the recommendation to add \$9.1 million more in state funds each year is a cruel and careless decision that means more Kentucky seniors will go hungry," said Steele, noting that the state's aging department, also known as DAIL, will continue working with local development districts to make the most of funding provided by the general assembly. The public affairs director added that the general assembly also cut the aging department's budget by 4% in the 2027 fiscal year and by

7% in the 2028 year. Without the funding support that Steele said the Beshear administration has repeatedly advocated for since last fall, the aging department will have to reduce the support it can provide the development districts who administer the meal program at the local level, she said. "We encourage Kentuckians to reach out to their local representatives about the importance of funding an essential program that reduces hunger," Steele said. Rep. Myron Dossett noted, however, that "the governor can either cry and scare the public or do what has to be done, move dollars and fix the problem." **SPENDING DOLLARS WISELY** Dossett, who serves a portion of Christian County in the state House of Representatives, said the governor in 2026 requested a certain amount of dollars for different programs. But Dossett explained that the legislators funded the cabinets at a lower dollar amount, but with the ability to move dollars from program to program to make sure they are spent wisely. He noted that the dollars were within the cabinet last year when the program for the senior meals ran short, and someone just had to decide to move those dollars to make up the shortfall in the program. "That is what will have to be done again this year," Dossett said.

Beshear has since said that the General Assembly confirmed that he is free to use funds at his discretion to support the programs and is doing so. Rep. Jason Petrie, who serves Logan and Todd counties and a part of Christian County in the state House, explained that funding was increased by the general assembly in 2024 by approximately \$10 million in general fund money, and the executive branch agency charged with administering the program requested the same amount in the 2026 budget cycle. He said the program was funded. "The agency has not modified its original budget request," noted Petrie, who is chairman of the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee and sponsor of House Bill 500, the executive branch budget. Petrie said a substantial portion of the executive branch was subject to slight generic reductions in base funding. But he noted that the decision to reduce a particular program, such as the senior meals, was left within the discretion of the governor as chief executive. "Before reducing any programs, the General Assembly directed the governor first to reduce other less necessary expenses such as marketing, advertising, out-of-state travel and several more," Petrie said. "There is more than sufficient funding for the executive branch to prioritize spending Kentuckians' tax dollars and maintain a successful Senior Meals Program."

CCPS

FROM PAGE A1

County Public Schools through 2031. The plan, developed over several months with assistance from the University of Kentucky's Next Generation Leadership Academy and education consultant James Nyhoff, outlines six pillars that will guide district priorities: accountability, achievement, aptitude, assets, alliances and appreciation. Director of Academics Kadi Ralston said more than 1,000 opportunities for stakeholder input helped shape the plan through feedback from staff, parents, students, community members and board members. "This is a five-year plan," Ralston said. "It will not happen in year one. It is meant to be our guide over several years." Superintendent Chris Bentzel said the strategic plan builds on work completed during the


district's previous five-year plan while focusing on improving student achievement, strengthening community partnerships and maintaining district facilities. "The biggest thing is it's always about student achievement," Bentzel said. "Achievement, aptitude, assets, alliances and appreciation are all measured through accountability." Board member Lindsey Clark praised the district's use of the strategic plan as a working document rather than one that simply sits on a shelf. "I so much appreciate how this is our roadmap," Adams said. "It is what drives us." Before approving the plan, board Chair Tom Bell encouraged district leaders to continue involving community members who helped develop it. "A lot of times people work on stuff and never see it," Bell said. "Keep them engaged." Earlier in the meeting, the board recognized

Hopkinsville High School graduate Karla Quintanilla and Christian County High School graduate K'Veon Ivory for their service as student board representatives during the 2025-26 school year. Bentzel praised both students for their leadership, particularly during discussions surrounding graduation ceremonies earlier this year. "They've taught me a lot about leadership," Bentzel said. "They helped remind us what we're about and what we should be doing." Several board members thanked the students for representing their classmates throughout the year, with multiple members calling them among the strongest student repre-

sentatives the district has had. The board also recognized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early Learning Center staff after the school received the district's Cleanest Building of the Year Award. In her fourth-quarter report, District Health Director Megan Kidd said school nurses logged 17,583

health office visits during the final grading period, bringing the yearly total to 60,300 student visits. Kidd said approximately 250 of the fourth-quarter visits were scheduled student appointments, with the remainder consisting of walk-in visits. Board members also discussed

SEE CCPS/PAGE A7



LEGAL NOTICE

COMMISSIONER'S SALE

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SECURITIZED ASSET BACKED RECEIVABLES LLC TRUST 2007-BR-3, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-BR3, Plaintiff, against **Unknown Heirs of Gay Nell Rittenberry, et al.,** Defendants

CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00501

BY VIRTUE of a Judgment and Order of Sale of the Christian Circuit Court, rendered on January 14, 2026 in the above cause, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the **OFFICE OF THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY MASTER COMMISSIONER, LEE M. HARTON,** at 1606 SOUTH MAIN STREET, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to the highest bidder at **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Monday, June 22, 2026, at or about the hour of 11:00 a.m., upon a credit of 10% of the sale price on day of sale, balance in 30 days, the real estate located at 319 E. 18th Street, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and described with particularity in Deed Book 639, Page 112, Office of the Christian County Clerk. The judgment in this case is for approximately \$ 109,700.00 for the balance of the purchase price, the purchaser must execute bond with approved surety or sureties, bearing interest at 6.625% per annum from the date of sale until paid, and having the force and effect of a judgment. This sale is subject to all *ad valorem* taxes for 2026, *et seq.* Bidders will be prepared to comply promptly with these terms. Any announcements made on date of sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein.


Clunk, Hoose Co., LPA
Akron, OH.
Counsel for Plaintiff

LEE M HARTON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
www.christiancountymastercommissioner.com
Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Notice of Sale was this day served by United States mail, postage prepaid, to all parties not in default for failure to appear in accordance with CR 53.02 and 53.02(1).

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2026.

/s/ Lee M. Harton
LEE M. HARTON



LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE 2026-10

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027

WHEREAS, a budget proposal and message was presented to the City Council on the 11th day of June 2026; and WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed said budget proposal and made any necessary modifications. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ELKTON, KENTUCKY AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I

That the annual budget attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference, is hereby adopted as the annual budget for the City of Elkton, Kentucky for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

SECTION II
CONFLICTING ORDINANCE CLAUSE

Any and all other ordinances, municipal orders, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby automatically repealed.

SECTION III
SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is held unconstitutional, or otherwise invalid, such infirmity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance.

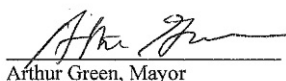
SECTION IV
ADOPTION, RECORDATION, AND PUBLICATION

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force effective July 1, 2026, and after its passage and publication according to law.

FIRST READING: _____
SECOND READING: _____

The forgoing Ordinance was enacted after second reading on the ____ day of _____, 2026. This Ordinance was duly published in the Kentucky New Era on the ____ day of _____, 2026, and will be effective immediately upon publication there of unless otherwise stated.

ATTEST:
Kayce Bright, City Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED:

Arthur Green, Mayor


This instrument was prepared by:

Jeffrey B. Traughber
Attorney at Law
PO Box 129
Elkton, KY 42220

Exhibit A											
Budget Appropriations											
FYE June 30, 2027											
	General Fund	Municipal Road Aid	LGEA	ABC	Revolving	KLEFFP	Cemetery	Solid Waste	Water	Sewer	TOTAL
Revenue											
Taxes	1,625,400										1,625,400
Licenses and Permits	165,100			71,000							236,100
Charges for Services	95,100							135,000	696,500	708,000	1,594,600
Intergovernmental Revenue	708,321	48,000				46,100					802,421
Miscellaneous	284,500	400	200	80	50	7,700	200	46,300	48,800		368,230
Transfers	115,480				800			7,200	8,800		132,280
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	4,347,746	158,900	0	0	19,300	0	190,300	86,500	776,847	1,080,190	6,669,783
TOTAL REVENUE	7,481,647	208,300	200	71,080	20,150	46,100	198,000	221,700	1,526,847	1,865,790	11,628,814
Expenditures											
General Government	770,480										770,480
Intergovernmental Expense											
Police Department	1,003,200					46,100					1,049,300
Fire Department	209,800										209,800
Street Department	495,428	62,000			20,150						577,578
Cemetery Department	84,950										84,950
Culture and Recreation	585,750										585,750
Sanitation Department							129,700				129,700
Water Department								685,120			685,120
Sewer Department									724,280		724,280
Other Expense											
Transfers			200	71,080			7,700		16,780	16,780	112,560
Fund Balance End of Year	4,352,039	146,300	0	0	0	0	190,300	82,000	824,937	1,114,720	6,720,296
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	7,481,647	208,300	200	71,080	20,150	46,100	198,000	221,700	1,526,847	1,865,790	11,628,814