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THE LARUE COUNTY
HERALD NEWS

Proudly serving the community of LaRue County since May 6, 1885

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 VOLUME 283, NO. 42 · HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY · $2

School Report Card reveals local gains, losses

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

Data recently released by the Kentucky Department of Education has revealed that students throughout the LaRue County School District have experienced both academic gains and losses, with all schools receiving an overall rating of yellow (medium).

Required by state and federal legislation, Kentucky must annually publish comprehensive data on key education metrics about the performance and progress of all schools. Districts are held accountable for student assessment results in all core subjects, including reading, mathematics, science, social studies and writing, and school climate and safety. High schools are also assessed for postsecondary readiness and graduation rates.

The Commonwealth's accountability system calculates scores by identifying the current year's performance (status) and the year-over-year growth (change) in each academic area.

SEE **SCHOOL/PAGE A2**

LARUE COUNTY SCHOOLS

	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Overall	67.8	54.8	69.1
Reading	68.3	65.4	66.9
Math	63.7	55.7	52.9
Science	67.3	53	37.2
Social Studies	56.7	60.4	59
Writing	65.8	74.5	76.6
Climate/safety	74.4	72.9	68



Photo courtesy of LaRue County Schools

Kenley Thomas listens in Danielle Brown's classroom at HES.



Community Event to provide Thanksgiving Meals

ALLISON SHEPHERD
PUBLISHER

The community of LaRue County is invited to come together for an evening of shopping, food, fun, and giving back at the Gather & Give event.

The event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, November 6 at 63 Shawnee Drive in Hodgenville, located at the LCHS Band Bingo building next to Houchens IGA.

Bethany Vessels says Gather & Give was created with one simple goal in mind, neighbors helping neighbors.

The event will host more than 30 local vendors, a silent auction, food and dirty sodas.

All proceed from vendor fees, the silent auction and donations will be used to provide Thanksgiving meals to families in LaRue County this season.

Every vendor that participates along with every donation given will help put a Thanksgiving meal on the table of a local family.

If your household could use a little help putting Thanksgiving dinner on the table this year, a meal voucher appears again in this week's edition on page A7. Meal vouchers must be returned to either Houchens IGA or Save-A-Lot in Hodgenville by Saturday, November 6. You can choose from a 'cook at home meal' or a 'ready to heat and eat meal' option.

For more information on the meal voucher or to be a vendor at the event, contact Bethany Vessels at 270-537-5699.

City proposes increased tax rate

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

The City of Hodgenville is proposing an increase to its property tax rates for the 2026 tax bills. A public hearing to obtain comments regarding this rate will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at Hodgenville City Hall.

The city proposes increasing its real and personal property tax rates from 10.9 cents per $100 in assessed value to 11.1 cents. The new rate is expected to produce $256,278 in revenue, which is approximately $11,000 more than last year.

The 2026 compensating rate – the rate which would provide no new revenue over the previous year – is 10.7 cents per $100 in assessed value. It would produce a revenue of $247,043.

Any additional tax dollars received from growth in assessment values will be proportionately spent within all city departments and programs which utilize local tax dollars in

SEE **CITY/PAGE A6**

Tax petition ruling expected this week

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

LaRue County Circuit Court Judge Charles Simms III expects to have a ruling on the litigation attempting to recall the LaRue County Board of Education's 2025 property tax levy by the end of the week.

Originally filed in November 2025, the litigation challenges LaRue County Clerk Rhonda Metcalf's decision that the petition attempting to recall the Board's 2025 property tax levy did not meet statutory standards, causing it to be declared insufficient. Per Metcalf's determination, two pages of the petition contained different headings and verbiage than all the other papers submitted. Because state law requires all pages of a petition to be substantially uniform in style, Metcalf said she could not by statute certify the petition.

The case came before Judge Simms for a two-day trial on Sept. 8 and included more than 1,200 pages of evidence and half a dozen witnesses. At that time, Adrienne Southworth, attorney for the petition committee, argued that the two pages that have different headings are a "technical

SEE **TAX/PAGE A7**



Rob Metzger

Kentucky County Fair Miss Pre-Teen winners included from left is 1st runner-up Kinleigh Hampton, representing LaRue County Fair; winner Carlee Briggs, representing Metcalfe County and 2nd runner-up, Harbour Powell, representing Jessamine County.

Locals compete at the County Fair State Pageant

ALLISON SHEPHERD

LaRue County Fair Pageant 2026 Miss Pre-Teen winner, Kinleigh Hampton competed in the Kentucky County Fair Pageant October 17-18, 2026.

Hampton represented LaRue County and placed 1st runner up in the pageant out of 78 pre-teen vying for the crown.

Harbour Powell, a Hodgenville resident and Abraham Lincoln Elementary School student was awarded 2nd runner up. Powell represented Jessamine County Fair.

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