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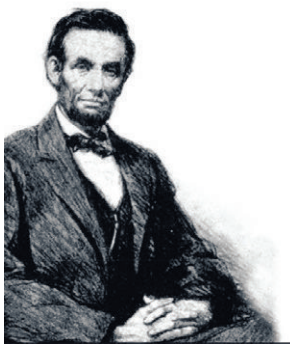

THE LARUE COUNTY HERALD NEWS

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026 VOLUME 283, NO. 45 · HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY · $2

Judge Simms asked to reconsider tax petition ruling

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

Attorneys for the LaRue County Board of Education are asking the court to reconsider its ruling that the petition challenging the Board's 2025 property tax levy is sufficient, while the petition committee argues that the request simply re-argues issues from the trial that did not go in the Board's favor.

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 LaRue County Circuit Court Judge Charles C. Simms III for a two-day trial in September. He subsequently ruled in October that the recall petition was substantially compliant and ordered an election to determine whether the voters of LaRue County are for the levy of the tax rate.

The Board filed a motion to alter, amend or vacate the trial decision on Oct. 30, arguing that the ruling has three manifest errors of law or fact warranting the relief sought; Adrienne Southworth, attorney for the petition committee, disagrees with the existence of two of the three errors and requests a limited scope on the third.

Their first issue is with the affidavit of the petition committee, which must be signed under oath by all committee members and filed with the LaRue County Clerk's Office to officially start the petition proceedings. At trial, the Board relied on testimony by the petition committee members – who gave differing testimony regarding the affidavit process – to argue that the affidavit filed with the county clerk was not valid and therefore no petition committee ever came into existence. Judge Simms disagreed with this argument, ruling that "the petition committee's inability to recall these events should not result in the affidavit being declared invalid." He also said that the face of the affidavit appears to comply with

SEE **JUDGE/PAGE A6**



Submitted photo

Bill Matherly, the LaRue County Public Library's November Artist of the Month, is pictured at his booth at Lincoln Days. In addition to showing off his artwork, Matherly also gave away handcrafted crosses.

'If it weren't for my God, I couldn't do it'

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

93-year-old Bill Matherly may not be a life-long painter, but his dedication has earned him recognition as the LaRue County Public Library's November Artist of the Month.

A retired Army veteran, Matherly has collected a variety of careers throughout his lifetime, ranging from delivery driver to McDonald's employee and everything in

SEE **GOD/PAGE A7**

Win a free Turkey

BY STAFF

It's that time of year when we stop and give thanks for the many blessings we have all been given, and this year we are 'THANKFUL' for a community we call home that takes care of each other and supports local businesses.

This year, *The LaRue County Herald News* is excited to announce the return of the annual Turkey Giveaway. Turn to page B8 of today's paper to find 10 businesses listed that are taking part in the giveaway this year. They are Joel Ray's Lincoln Jamboree, Pizza Zone, Phelps Heating and Cooling, Lincoln Parkway Pharmacy, LaRue County Public Library, the City of Hodgenville, The Sweet Shoppe, Save A Lot of Hodgenville, Family

SEE **WIN/PAGE A4**



41% of LaRue County votes

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR



Voters of LaRue county flocked to the voting polls on Tuesday, Nov. 3 for the 2026 general election, and local, state and national results have been released.

Of the 11,732 registered voters in the county, 4,899, or 41.7% of voters, made their voices heard. Comparable to the statewide turnout, this is up 11.9% since the May 2026 primary and down 21.4% since the last general election in 2024.

Voters largely waited until Election Day to cast their vote, with 3,541 utilizing compared to 1,470 utilizing mail in, absentee and early voting options. The election results are as follows:

LARUE COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE

In a landslide victory, Republican incumbent Blake Durrett has won another four-year term. He received 3558 votes (74%), compared to Democrat Katy Cecil's 1248 (25.9%).

"I want to thank everyone who voted for me or supported the campaign," Durrett said. "I'm especially thankful for the kindness shown to me throughout my time as

SEE **VOTES/PAGE A2**



Recycle your Holiday Lights

STAFF

When functional, the twinkle of holiday lights can be beautiful. Unfortunately, whether it be because they've stopped working or they're being replaced with more energy-efficient options, an estimated 50 million strands end up in the garbage each year. Fortunately, the valuable materials contained in holiday lights, such as copper, glass and plastic, means they can be recycled and reused.

To keep the holidays merry and the landfills empty, LaRue County Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator Jill Gray has initiated a holiday light recycling program again this year.

Beginning Tuesday, December 1, old, unused or broken lights can be dropped off at *The LaRue County Herald News*, located at 40 Shawnee Dr., Hodgenville, for recycling. This opportunity is free and helps keep the festive spirit alive, one recycled light at a time.

For questions or more information, contact Gray at 270-234-6619.

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