▪EXPANDING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



PHOTO | MISTY HUTCHINSON, LEADER-NEWS

as lateral hires, bringing three years of law enforcement experience each. Their experience, knowledge, and dedication to serving others will be valuable assets to our department and the citizens of Central City.

CCPD continues to strengthen the department with experienced officers who share a commitment to protecting and serving our community.

▪TOURISM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

hope that the new leadership would bring fresh ideas and identify additional opportunities to strengthen tourism and community involvement. The commission emphasized the importance of continually developing new programs and activities rather than relying on the same events year after year.

Members noted that continued growth requires maintaining community participation, enthusiasm and public response.

Museum Operations and Community Displays

Museum operations, seasonal decorations and community banners were also discussed.

Members reviewed the timing of veterans' banners, cancer survivor banners and other displays as the community transitions from Veterans Day to Christmas activities.

Festival Square was mentioned as a location for community banners and recognition displays. Six benches at Festival Square were also discussed, along with the possibility of similar improvements in other locations.

Budget and Revenue Outlook

The commission reviewed budget considerations associated with the proposed staffing changes. David Richey said an itemized budget would be prepared to show the financial impact of the new positions and existing expenses. Although staffing changes would affect expenditures, members indicated that the additional costs appeared manageable.

Tourism revenue projections were also discussed, with hotel revenue reportedly increasing. Members reviewed expectations for revenue during construction and other developments and indicated that projections may have been conservative.

The commission expressed confidence that the proposed budget was workable while recognizing the importance of monitoring expenses and revenue in the coming years.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Tourism Director Announcement

David Richey, chair of Central City Tourism Commission, has announced that Dr. Freddie Mayes will resign as Executive Director of the Commission at the end of 2026 after a distinguished 11-year tenure of service.

"I cannot say enough good things about what Freddie has meant to our Tourism Commission these past 11 years. Freddie has brought great ideas, fantastic energy and a work ethic that is unbelievable. I am thankful for what he has done; however, I am just as excited about his new role as Director of Museums/ Consultant."

Richey added, "Anyone who knows when Freddie is assigned a task, or placed on a committee good things happen. I look forward to seeing what he does to help develop and promote our museums."

Dr. Mayes enjoyed a 38-year optometry career and established the Oak Tree Eye Clinic in Central City before his retirement in 2014. A staunch supporter and volunteer of his community, he first served as an original member of the Tourism Commission and became its director in 2015.

During his term as Executive Director, the Tourism Commission sponsored multiple events each year and became an integral driver of facility improvements that have brought thousands of visitors to our community. These success stories include the establishment and curation of Muhlenberg Music Museum, bringing the Kentucky Motorsports Hall of Fame and Museum to Central City, and the creation of Farmers Bank & Trust Festival Square.

Additionally, Mayes has worked in cooperation with his counterparts at the Greenville and Muhlenberg County tourism commissions on successful projects like the July 4th Freedom Fest, Muhlenberg County Visitor Center, and the annual Muhlenberg County display at the Kentucky State Fair to promote the county throughout our region and across the state of Kentucky.

Mayes plans to remain active in the local tourism sphere even though he will no longer serve as Executive Director.

"I will continue to serve as consultant to the commission and as director of our two museums and Festival Square," he said. "It has been an honor to serve as the Tourism Director and share all of the rich history that Muhlenberg County has to offer with the world."

Mayes added, "I look forward to remaining a part of community life in this modified role and just want to express my sincere thanks to my tourism board, the city, and the many volunteers through the years who

DIRECTOR CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



USDA Awards Nearly $800,000 to Expand Kentucky Meat Processing

By **Michelle Rowe**
JOBENEWS

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Four Kentucky meat-processing businesses will receive nearly $800,000 in federal grants to expand their operations, increase processing capacity and provide more opportunities for livestock producers across the state.

The funding was announced November 2 by USDA Rural Development Kentucky State Director Travis T. Burton and Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell.

Kentucky has the largest beef cow herd east of the Mississippi River, making access to meat-processing facilities an important part of the state's agricultural economy.

The grants are part of the USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program, which supports independent processors and aims to improve competition and strengthen the nation's food supply chain.

"Kentucky farmers raise some of the finest livestock in America, and we want to make sure they have every opportunity to get those products to market," Shell said.

The four businesses receiving funding include:

•Central KY Custom Meats, Inc. — $59,537: Funding will purchase equipment to improve beef processing, sanitation and production efficiency. The improvements are expected to increase processing capacity from approximately 18 cattle per week to 26 per week by the third year.

PROCESSING | CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

11/12/26 **Super** Crossword

Answers

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