

Williams sendoff



Photo by Greg Eans, Messenger-Inquirer | geans@messenger-inquirer.com
 Estes Elementary School Principal Ryan Williams makes his way around the parking lot of the school Wednesday in a convertible with mascot Buddy the Bulldog as students and staff cheer him on during a sendoff for his retirement at the end of the school year.

CASTLEN

FROM PAGE A1

important for them to hear from you.' But we'll know on May 19. That's the day we get our report card."

While many candidates in this election cycle have employed social media to a great degree to get their message to voters, Castlen has remained more old school in his approach.

"I'm more one on one with people," he said. "I'm reaching out, attending events and talking to people when I'm at events. Obviously I'm getting my signs out and letting them know I'm on the ballot. This is the 11th time my name has been on the ballot, and I feel like people know what Charlie Castlen stands for, and they either support my positions or they don't. I have tried to highlight with some of my print ads the successes of this court, led by me, from broadband, support of law enforcement and the detention center, with public safety being No. 1. Our roads are in good shape, and we're doing updates on parks as they're needed."

"I feel like I have a good track record, and I'm hopeful people will come out and support me."

While campaigning is nothing new for Castlen, he feels his opponent in the May 19 Republican primary, East Daviess County Commissioner Janie Marksberry, has made this election cycle anything but normal.

"Not once has another opponent attacked me the way she has," Castlen

said. "She has done the 14 reasons she's running on social media, and I have not watched any of them because I consider them poison. I believe they're half-truths at best. I know the most recent one she put out is that I don't like women, that I'm disrespectful to women. How do you argue against that? I had a mother, I had two grandmothers, I have seven sisters, I have two daughters, I have a wife, I have a number of ladies that work with me and for me, and I would say I respect every one of the ones that I just mentioned, and I think they respect me."

"I'm largely ignoring Janie's attacks, because the truth is I think they're lies. I think it's tremendously disingenuous for her to highlight the fifth worst flood we've ever had in Daviess County, and she says 60-some roads were under water, and that is not acceptable. It's totally unbelievable that anybody would believe that she's going to keep that from happening again. And for her to even run on such a platform, it's almost like how stupid do you think our fellow citizens are?"

Castlen said he decided from the outset he wasn't going to get into a mud-slinging contest.

"I was told at the beginning (of the campaign) that I needed to spend \$28,000 to push back on her," Castlen said. "I told them that with my record, my name recognition, if I have to spend \$28,000 to beat her, then it's hers. I've had lots of people want to send me money, and I've told them

I'm not raising money to run a campaign against Janie Marksberry. I'm just not."

"She's not selling herself. She's trying to destroy me, and everything she has laid out there is negative. Even a dear friend of mine in Louisville came in and we visited and he said, 'I didn't know what an SOB you were.'"

Castlen believes Marksberry's campaign approach could have negative repercussions for the other county commissioners seeking re-election.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we have an all new court after what she has done; only time will tell," he said. "But I think with her campaign that people could very easily take the position, 'I'm getting rid of every one of them, and I'm not voting for any incumbent.' That is the risk that she has created. It all goes to how strong is her message. Quite honestly, I've only had one person tell me to my face that they're voting for Janie."

Castlen believes Marksberry has often been unclear on her stances.

"She gave the speech before we voted on It Takes a Village, and the speech she gave, every one of us, from staff to Fiscal Court members, were like, 'She's going to be a yes vote,' because that speech was as good as any of us could have given in support of it, and yet she voted no," Castlen said. "It was a bizarre moment. It's almost like she's two people. How could she give that speech and vote no?"

Castlen's stance on most issues are well document-

ed, including the possibility of Daviess County being home to solar farms.

"At the last Fiscal Court meeting, I said, 'Just to be clear, I believe solar should be on rooftops and on parking lots; it should not be on our farm fields,' he said. "That's my position. If I could, with the wave of a wand I'd make all solar farms disappear. I think it's wrong to trade agriculture for solar farms. For us to give up (a large amount) amount of agriculture production, I think it's dangerous for the security and safety of the United States."

"We don't need to become dependent on other nations for our food. For me, I'm very passionate about being anti-solar."

Castlen said the only project he ran on when first elected judge-executive was the completion of the broadband, which has been achieved. He's also proud of several other Fiscal Court accomplishments.

"We have been very strong supporters of the sheriff's office, the detention center, we're keeping the roads in good shape, we've got the new public safety facility coming online soon, we've got the jail renovations soon, and I've lowered taxes to the lowest since 1975, so we're in good financial shape," Castlen said. "I think I've been a good steward. I think I've done a good job working with the other Fiscal Court members."

"My contention is if the voters want to see more success under the leadership of Charlie Castlen, they need to show up and vote on May 19."

Agenda

Daviess Fiscal Court

Daviess County Fiscal Court will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday at the Daviess County Courthouse. The agenda includes the following items:

1. Consideration for Presentation:

- Proclaim the week of May 10-16, 2026 as National Police Week
- Proclaim the week of May 17-23, 2026 as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week
- Hear treasurer's report for April, 2026

2. Consideration for Approval:

minutes of April 30, 2026, Daviess County Fiscal Court meeting

- Consider approving all claims for all departments
- Consider approving fund transfers

• Consider approving annual standing order to pre-approve certain recurring expenses for Fiscal Year 2026/2027

• Consider approving county clerk's claim for calculation of motor vehicle and boat bills for 2026

• Consider approving KYEM Emergency Management Assistance Program Non-Supplanting Certification

• Consider approving memorandum of agreement between the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, and 119 Local Jurisdictions of the Commonwealth to establish an agreement for an Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMPG 2025 cycle)

• Consider approving court facilities reimbursement agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts for Fiscal Year 2026/2027

• Consider approving joint funding agreement between the U.S. Geological Survey, OKI Water Science Center, the U.S. Department of the Interior and Daviess County Fiscal Court for water resource investigations

• Consider approving parking lot rental agreement with First Baptist Church

• Consider approving security services agreement through the Daviess County Sheriff's Office: 07-2026 effective April 30, 2026

• Consider approving parks facility/special event rental agreement with the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and

Museum for the Annual ROMP Festival at Yellow Creek Park

• Consider approving grant agreement for Kentucky Pride Fund Household Hazardous Waste Management for Fiscal Year 2026/2027

• Consider approving grant agreement for Kentucky Pride Fund Recycling for Fiscal Year 2026/2027

• Consider approving waste tire grant agreement for Fiscal Year 2026/2027

• Consider approving YMCA CDBG grant evidentiary documents

• Consider approving Owensboro Regional Recovery CDBG grant evidentiary documents

• Consider approving Resolution 09-2026: Accept and Adopt Ridge Brook Cove

• Consider approving Resolution 10-2026: Accept and Adopt Northwood Drive

• Consider approving roadway resurfacing list for Fiscal Year 2026/2027

• Consider approving release of surety: Woodland Ridge — Unit 9 — Public Improvements Surety

• Consider renewing the following bids Bid No.

2223-58.3: Coated corrugated culvert pipe (annual); Bid No. 2324-61.2: Bulk delivered fuels (annual)

• Consider awarding Bid No. 2526-65: Fire rescue uniforms (annual)

• Consider awarding Bid No. 2526-66: Fire inspection services (annual)

• Consider awarding RFQ No. 2526-75: Water line relocation project (Engineering)

• Consider promoting Ron Whitworth to transfer station manager (Henderson) effective May 10, 2026

• Consider reclassifying Robert Askins from seasonal to full time effective May 10, 2026

• Hear first reading of KOC A.110 (2026) 02-2026: Fiscal Year 2026/2027 annual budget

• Hear first reading of KOC 921.690 (2026) 03-2026:

An ordinance imposing a temporary moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications related to I.T. infrastructure facilities (including data centers)

• Other business to be brought before the Daviess County Fiscal Court

• Public comments

• Comments by Daviess County Fiscal Court

POLICE

FROM PAGE A3

engaging in organized crime.

Daviess County Sheriff's Office

- Phillip E. Moore,

43, of the 1600 block of Manor Court was charged Wednesday with first-degree possession of a controlled substance (meth).

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SAVE The DATE—June 16th thru 18th

“SAVE OUR SUMMER”

Teams this year include...
Law Enforcement
Fire Fighters
Financial Organizations



Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center
 3015 Old Hartford Road
 Owensboro, Kentucky 42303
 (270) 684-9296 wkrbc.org

Save Our Summer hours of operation:
Tuesday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm