



UK Football
Stein adds 4 more to his staff • B1

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Intakes outpacing adoptions at Daviess County Animal Shelter

Not enough kennels for the dogs

BY SCOTT HAGERMAN
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

If you're considering adding a dog to your household, the Daviess County Animal Shelter would love to help you find a new best friend.

Tangila Smith, executive director of It Takes a Village Rescue, which operates the shelter, said that while adoptions have been steady this summer, they're not keeping pace with the intake numbers.

"We're doing pretty good; we're holding several adoption special events a month with reduced adoption specials, doctor fees, and we have a lot that are sponsored adoptions," she said. "But we're still taking in several animals, a lot of animals a month, both strays and our surrenders. It is overcrowded right now. We have four dogs sitting in our intake room that we have no kennels to put them in."

ITV's operation of the shelter has been a point of consternation for some involved in animal care and rescue, and Smith said her organization is still dealing with consistent backlash, primarily on social media.

"I mean, we still see the



Photo by Greg Eans, Messenger-Inquirer | geans@messenger-inquirer.com
Halei Tapp plays with Honey Bun, a 3-year-old terrier mix, on Wednesday at the Daviess County Animal Shelter.

comments on Facebook, that we're not wanted here," Smith said. "But we're doing what we can the best we can, and I think we're pretty doing pretty good."

While ITV may not be welcome by everyone, Smith said it's doing all it can to get

as many animals as possible adopted, with several programs offered to encourage residents to take on new pets — or at least spend time with the animals.

Smith said a big help — in addition to the obvious, more adoptions — would be more

people fostering animals, which can be for an indefinite amount of time.

"We have a foster application online at itvrescue.org, and it's pretty simple," Smith said. "We try to match you up

SEE **SHELTER/PAGE A2**



Photo by Greg Eans, Messenger-Inquirer | geans@messenger-inquirer.com
Lucas, a resident at Wendell Foster, gets a first hand look at the inside of an Air EVAC Helicopter, with help from Marika Barbee, center, and Madison Reiber, both with Wendell Foster, on Friday during the First Responders BBQ Lunch at Wendell Foster's Sensory Park.

Wendell Foster honors first responders with annual BBQ

BY MICHELE LOHMAN
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Wendell Foster, along with Owensboro's Chamber Young Professionals, partnered to host an annual First Responders BBQ Friday, the ninth annual event.

"This is just a wonderful way for us as an organization to show appreciation to the first responders who impact and support our community each and every day," said Kara Howard, the Vice President of Development and Community Engagement at Wendell Foster. "We love doing it, and they love coming out. It's an opportunity for them to interact with us, get to engage with each other in a non-emergency capacity."

Howard said the relationship between Wendell Foster, the staff and the clients, and area first responders is "important."

"Wendell Foster's been in the Owensboro community for nearly 80 years, and we serve a population of people with disabilities who have needs that we may need to reach out to emergency services. We may need support from our fire department and the Owensboro Police Department, so maintaining those relationships is important to us," she said.

Invitations to the annual event, which included a free lunch cooked by volunteers from Atmos Energy,

SEE **BBQ/PAGE A4**

City close to awarding bid to demolish Colonel House

BY JAMES MAYSE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

City officials are close to awarding a bid to demolish the Colonel House Motel property on Triplett Street, which would open up the site to future development.

Assistant City Manager Lelan Hancock said Friday the goal is to find a developer for the property that will put it back on the property tax rolls.

The city purchased the old motel, at 1829 Triplett Street, in late 2024. The Colonel House had become a rent-by-the-week motel and had generally fallen into disrepair.

The city put out a bid demolish the structure in the fall, after previously unsuccessfully soliciting for a developer to

either remodel the motel for affordable housing or build new housing on the site. The city received six bids on the demolition project, but all were above the city's estimate.

Seven firms submitted bids in second call to demolish the building, with the bids ranging from \$116,895 to \$204,700.

At least two of the bids were lower than the lowest bid in the first attempt. Then, the low bid was \$121,500.

City Purchasing Manager Kalyn Fox said the city is still working to get final information from the chosen bidder before awarding the contract.

"My hope is this will be wrapped up next week," Fox said Friday.

Hancock said the city does not have a specific project in mind for the site.

After the demolition is complete, the city will solicit for developers interested in doing something at the property, Hancock said.

"Once we get it torn down, we will likely do an RFP (request for proposals)," Hancock said. "Maybe we'll market it as an economic development piece."

Currently, no developer has approached the city expressing an interest in the site, Hancock said.

When asked if the city had moved away from the idea of the site being used to construct affordable housing, Hancock said the city would consider such an idea if a developer makes a proposal. But what happens there would largely be up to the company making the proposal, Hancock said.

"I would say we will offer (the site) and see what the market comes back with," Hancock said. The city will examine proposals and will be interested in "anything that will put it back on the tax rolls."

"Affordable housing would be nice, but the dollars would have to make sense" to the developer, Hancock said.



Lelan Hancock

CORRECTION

A story on Page A1 Thursday should have said the one Daviess County death from West Nile virus in 2025 occurred on September 26.



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OwensboroHealth.org/FoodArtHealth

Owensboro Health

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Owensboro Health will be offering overflow parking at the southwest corner of the parking lot at the Parrish Campus.