



Webster County FFA Students Participate In Regional Sales, Employability Contests

A group of students recently represented the Webster County FFA Chapter with distinction at the regional FFA Agriculture Sales and Employability Career Development Events, demonstrating strong communication, professionalism, and teamwork skills.

The Agriculture Sales team (left to right: Tripp

Boles, Haylee Richmond, Cali Walters, and Hunter Redfern) competed in an event designed to simulate real-world sales and business practices. During the contest, students showcased their ability to market and sell a mock agricultural product through an individual sales presentation. In addition, the team worked collaboratively in a mock business meeting, where they demonstrated teamwork, problem-solving, and professional communication as a sales team. Their combined efforts earned the team a third-place finish at the regional level.

In a separate event, Saydee Cowan competed in the FFA Agriculture Employability Career Development Event. This contest focuses on preparing students for the workforce by providing experience with the job application and interview process. Participants submitted a professional resume and cover letter for evaluation and completed a mock interview designed to mirror a real-world employment setting. Through this process, students gain valuable insight into employer expectations and develop skills essential for future careers.

Saydee earned a fourth-place finish at the regional competition. These accomplishments reflect the students' dedication to developing career-ready skills and highlight the role of how FFA truly prepares members for success beyond the classroom.

Signing Of Consolidated Appropriations Act Will Keep ECCJCA Open

Earle C. Clements Job Corps Academy Tessa Gough announced Thursday, that Job Corps programs have been saved. Gough received a message from the National Job Corps Association Thursday afternoon confirming that Congress has passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 and President Donald Trump signed the document into law. Below is the message Job Corps Centers received from the National Job Corps Association.

The statement from the national association notes:

"Included within that new law is funding to continue Job Corps operations through at least June 30, 2027, and new legal restrictions on Job Corps campus closures.

"In court, the Government has acknowledged that only Congress can decide whether to continue or

eliminate Job Corps. Congress, with the President's signature of acceptance, has now stated unequivocally that Job Corps will continue.

"Students, staff, community partners and prospective applicants should feel reassured that Job Corps' doors will remain open. Although the court cases continue, the passage of this law puts us in an even stronger position. Both the District Court in New York and the District Court in Washington, D.C. have already ruled that there is no distinction between Job Corps closures and the "pause" in Job Corps operations that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) attempted last May. This new law makes explicit that DOL cannot arbitrarily close campuses and drastically reduce the capacity of the program."

The national association invited job corps

across the country "to take time to celebrate what we (job corps centers), collectively, have accomplished for our students and their families, millions of future students, our staff, and our communities."

In May 2025, just a week after the Earle C. Clements Center celebrated its 60th anniversary, the center was notified that it would be closed, along with other centers across the nation. The announcement left many students and employees of the job corps in limbo, forcing students to terminate their studies and relocate to their

home communities or other areas. Employees were left looking for new jobs. Locally, a letter writing campaign was waged to let congressional leaders know the devastating impact the closure would have on the community. For several months local residents and job corps employees took time to write letters, make phone calls and support keeping the local center open.

Now, students can return to campus and take advantage of the many technical, professional, military and trade programs offered at ECCJCA.

Members Of Public Address Board Of Education

Continued from Page 1 that Harrell has supported the school's cross country team and students in general, creating a safe environment for students.

Chad Jones, who said he has heard the rumors "they are getting rid of Harrell" also questioned why the board would make such a move, "I would highly recommend you leave him where he is," Jones told the board. At one point in the meeting, Jones asked for a show of hands for those who advocate for a contract renewal for Harrell. Nearly every hand in the room rose high in the air. The only hands that remained down were those of the board and the media.

Others also approached the podium with nothing but praise and support for Harrell—retired teachers, former teachers and parents one after the other made their way to the podium to remind the board that in Harrell they have a leader who is kind, compassionate and visible not just in the schools but in the community.

Samantha Winebarger, a WC graduate and parent to children in the school system, told the board "I appreciate Mr. Harrell." She addressed the fact that under his leadership, she receives emails and notifications from the school that allow her to track her children's academic progress. She also commended the district for surveying parents and using those surveys in a positive manner. Winebarger also noted that she is thankful for the curriculum; thankful for the district's active involvement in the community and thankful for the collaboration they have with other agencies

including the sheriff's department and fiscal court. She stressed that the district and board have done a "wonderful job implementing programs and integrating everybody with every one working together."

Retired teacher Lynda Graham noted that at their meeting Monday the retired teachers discussed the rumors and they, too, question why, "If Mr. Harrell has had excellent evaluations the matter (contract renewal) is even up for discussion."

As others rose to speak, the theme remained the same—WHY? Teacher and coach Brandye Whitsell said "not one person has given a valid reason; not one person on the board has talked to teachers at Clay. Yes, it's up to you, but we work for Mr. Harrell, and we are just asking for a reason for your decision." Whitsell also said that one statement she has heard was about test score, and "I take that to heart. I want to know your reasoning; If you have valid reasons, give them to me and I'll research them; I'll run them down."

Others pointed out that while the five-person board made up of Tim McCormick, Venita Murphy, Amanda Coomes, Melody Hobgood and David Asher control the vote for Harrell's contract, it is the public, those in the room Monday night, who vote for school board members. "You vote for him, we vote for you," Paige Denton said. Another noted the secrecy that seems to be part of the plan to non-renew Harrell's contract, and another pointed out that if there are issues that have arisen with Harrell's performance he need to have the opportunity

the address and correct those issues.

McCormick asked that the public give the board time to "take in the information and statements made tonight." He gave board members the opportunity to respond to the public, none of them offered a comment or explanation. McCormick stated "it is a rumor" that Harrell will not have his contract renewed, and again called for the public to give the board time—"I don't think the board should be put on the spot (to answer questions). I think this should be allowed to play out, but I assure you there will be conversations (concerning contract renewal)."

As some in attendance became more insistent for answers from the board, Harrell interjected that he wasn't sure he would speak because he doesn't want to be the center of attention, but at that point he told the group "the board selecting a superintendent is a big deal and must be taken seriously." In Webster County a superintendent oversees about 400 employees and 2000 students. He added, "I value your insight. Some powerful things were said here tonight and I think those things need to marinate. This conversation will continue here and in the community. Giving them (the board) a little space right now might be the thing to do."

In total approximately 15 individuals addressed the board, and although they received no answers to their questions, their support was verbally powerful and provided insight to how strongly parents, teachers and community members feel about Harrell's impact in the district and the need for him to remain in his present leadership role.

As many guests exited the room, the board moved into its work session to discuss district business (see related story in this issue of The Seebree Banner). The next regular school board meeting is slated for Monday, February 23, at 4:30 p.m.



WCHS FFA Department Welcomes Student Teacher

Jenna Byrd, a senior agricultural sciences with agricultural education certification major at Murray State University, arrived recently at Webster County High School and will be working with students and teachers in the agricultural science and technology department and the FFA program for the next fourteen weeks.

Byrd is working under the guidance of cooperating teacher Mrs. Christina Ramage to learn all aspects of a successful agricultural science and technology program at the high school level.

Byrd will strive to become proficient in teaching a variety of classes in the career and technical education area, as well as in assisting students with leadership development in the FFA organization and career-focused experiential programs.

Upon completion of the student teaching experience, Byrd will return to Murray to participate in commencement exercises at Murray State University where she will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Robert Bucher, 3966 U.S. 41-A, North, Dixon, KY was appointed Administrator of the Estate of Larry E. Bucher, who died intestate, a resident of 3966 U.S. 41-A, North, Dixon, KY on November 30, 2025. Date of qualification January 6, 2026. Inventory due March 10, 2026. Settlement due January 11, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

Randy K. Kolodey, 144-A Bob Corpus Lane, Madisonville, KY 42431, was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Richard A. Kolodey, who died testate, a resident of Webster County, Kentucky on November 25, 2025. Date of qualification January 6, 2026. Lara R. Hunt, Hunt, Green, PSC, Attorneys-at-Law, 123 East Center Street, Madisonville, KY 42431. Inventory due March 10, 2026. Settlement due January 11, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

Tracy Davis, 374 Audubon Loop, Madisonville, KY and Jessie Winstead, 685 West Broadway, Madisonville, KY, were appointed co-administrators of the estate of Lewis Riley Davis, who died intestate, a resident of Webster County, KY on November 18, 2025. Date of qualification January 13, 2026. Lindsey Durbin, Deitz, Shields, Freeburger & Durbin, LLC, P.O. Box 21, 101 First Street, Henderson, KY 42420. Inventory due March 24, 2026. Settlement due January 18, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

Linda Main, 600 Burnt Mill Road, Dixon, KY, was appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Richard William Main, who died intestate, a resident of 600 Burnt Mill Road, Dixon, KY on February 22, 2015. Date of qualification January 20, 2025. William Clint Prow, attorney, 112 North Broadway, Providence, KY 42450. Inventory due March 24, 2026. Settlement due January 25, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.