

Correction *Continued from Page 1*

Debra Ford and Ruth McCully also stepped to the podium to support the superintendent. Ford, who has worked for seven of the district's superintendents, told the board "there have been superintendents who never visited schools and who didn't treat people well, but Mr. Harrell treats us all equally; he takes time to meet with people, he's always available, he's present in schools and he builds real relationships." She continued noting that he also gives the district's special needs students opportunities to work in the district, and he works with other members of the leadership team when making decisions regarding children and the district. "He has chosen this district over other opportunities," she said. She added, "Mr. Harrell works harder than any superintendent I have ever worked and he seeks to do what is right with everybody. He looks out for every student, every day." Her comments drew applause and cheers.

Lynda Graham raised a question for the board attorney, citing the KRS related to discussions a board can have about superintendent selection. She reported that she has been hearing rumors since August about conversations the board has had about Harrell's contract; discussions she believes go against the policies and guidelines that are in place to "protect the process" of superintendent selection. She asked board attorney Roy Massey if that KRS has been violated by the local board members.

Massey responded that while Graham has a "very valid point" he represents the board and he cannot speak to that. When Graham asked if it could be investigated, Massey acknowledged that it could be.

Board treasurer Brandi Burnett addressed the board from a financial standpoint telling members that the

"district is in the best financial standing we have been in for years." She added that Harrell "need more time to continue this work in progress. It would be a shame to see those things go by the wayside." She then spoke directly to Harrell to thank him for his positive leadership. Jamie Jones who also works in the district finance department added, "He has fought for us (classified personnel)."

Cassie Baggett, a second-year teacher in the district who has taught in other schools, noted, "What I've learned from working in different places is "We have to build a culture; our culture is that we are a culture that is going to help our students." She told the board that Webster County has a comfortable work environment; that in Webster County a culture has been built by those working here.

Rachel Hubbard also praised the support Harrell gives to personnel, adding that she has worked other places that don't support teachers, but in WC "everyone works together to be sure our kids have what matters. Our kids need to see us do the right thing."

Harrell's secretary, Michelle Wilson pulled no punches in her comments saying Harrell always returns calls to parents, students, teachers and community members, and she added that it is Harrell who keeps the morale of the employees positive. "Mr. Harrell is a real person who talks to real people," Wilson said, as she told of the many phone calls she has taken in support of a contract renewal for the superintendent. She said many of those are employees who have stated 'if they (the board) can get together and get rid of someone who has done nothing wrong, they can get rid of me.' "No one should feel that way," Wilson said.

Webster County Jailer's Report

Webster County Jailer Greg Sauls reports inmates worked a total of 1886 hours between March 22 and March 28, 2026. Hours worked include 520 hours at the detention center; 280 hours at the RCC; 80 hours mowing; 360 hours for Union County; 40 hours for the city of Clay; 80 hours for the city of Dixon; 160 hours for the city of Providence; 40 hours for recycling; 40 hours for the road department shop; 40 hours for the dog warden and 16 hours for Landon's Hope.

The total jail population is 165 with 28 Webster County inmates; 34 Union Coun-

ty inmates and 103 state prisoners.

Thirty-three inmates participated in the Moral Recognition Therapy program with one graduating. Twenty-five inmates participated in Anger Management; 18 attended Thinking for Good; and 18 participated in Untangling Relationships. Eleven students attended GED classes with one taking a test.

Incarcerated during the same period were Shawn Anderson Susan Belle Scotty Bruce Justin Coons Joshua Durham Carla Embry Kale Gaither Brent Gibson

Corey Gill
Blake Harmon
Andrew Harris
Keaton Howard
Richard Jackson
Bobbie Johnson
Miranda Key
Steven Long
Kenneth McKinney
Nina McVay
Thomas Meisel
Michael Melton
Kelsey Osmon
Matthew Phillips
Elizabeth Prow
Justin Shearer
Hailey Smith
Shantea Woodruff
Carly Zeller

Dixon Commission Holds Called Meeting

The Dixon City Commission held a special called meeting on Tuesday, March 24, where commissioners spent several minutes in closed session per KRS 61.18 (1)(c) to discuss pending or possible litigation.

When the commissioners returned to open session, they requested that city attorney Bobby Murray on a property obtain information related to a code enforcement issue. Once the commissioners receive information from Murray, they will determine how to proceed with the issue.

No other city business was discussed during the session.

Sleep, Academic Performance Go Hand In Hand

Students and sleep are not always compatible. College students have long expressed a tendency to be night owls, but even school-aged youngsters may be reluctant to go to bed on time during the school year.

Parents of school-aged children know that bedtime can be challenging, particularly when moms and dads want to ensure their youngsters get the recommended number of hours of sleep each night. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine advises school-aged children between the ages of six and 12 get nine to 12 hours of sleep per night, while teens are urged to sleep eight to 10 hours per night. Studies have found that when students don't get enough sleep on school nights, their academic performance is likely to suffer. A 2023 study of first-year college students led by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University and published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that negative outcomes began to accumulate when students received less than six hours of sleep per night. Authors of the study noted that previous studies in animals showed that memories formed during the day were consolidated while animals slept but forgotten when those animals' normal sleep patterns were interrupted. The researchers behind the study identified a notable decline in students' grade point averages when they received less than six hours of sleep, suggesting humans' ability to learn and remember what they've learned in a given day is compromised if they don't get enough sleep that

night. School-aged youngsters typically get more than six hours of sleep per night, but if they're falling short of AASM recommendations, those students' academic performance could be adversely affected. With that in mind, parents can try various strategies to get children to bed on time.

- Stay consistent with bedtime. A firm bedtime can reduce the likelihood that sleep disruptions will affect how children perform in the classroom. If children are staying up three hours past their weeknight bedtime on Friday and Saturday, then they're less likely to want to go to bed on time on school nights. A little flexibility on the weekends might not upset the apple cart, but try to maintain a consistent bedtime throughout the week.

- Help kids calm down before bed. A winding down period leading up to bedtime can help kids fall asleep more quickly and might even make them less resistant to bedtime. Avoid particularly energetic activities directly before bedtime. Calmly reading a book and picking clothes out for the next day of school are calm activi-

ties that can get kids' bodies ready for sleep.

- Avoid confrontation. Parents are urged to let it go if kids aren't falling right asleep but are still being cooperative at bedtime. Kids might want to keep reading to themselves after Mom and Dad say goodnight, and that's alright 't long as children aren't continually getting out of bed or getting riled up. Eventually kids will tire out when engaging in a calm, pre-sleep activity, so parents should not grow upset and confront kids who are behaving but not falling asleep right away.

- Create a positive sleep environment. Young children will resist sleep if it sounds like their parents and siblings are having a grand old time without them. Parents typically go to great lengths to ensure kids' bedrooms are conducive to sleep, but it's also important to maintain a peaceful setting throughout the rest of the house once children go to bed. Sleep and school are inextricably linked, and parents can do much to ensure kids get the rest they need to do their best in the classroom.

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God Knows You

By Dr. Bob Hardison

Why Is The Resurrection Of Christ Important?

Q: I accept Christ's ethical teachings, but I reject the thought that Christ arose from the dead. A person coming back to life after their death just doesn't water with me! Why is Christ's resurrection proclaimed in the Scripture?

A: The New Testament does not regard Christ as being simply a great teacher like Confucius or Socrates. The teachings of such philosophers did not depend on what happened to them after their death.

Buddha and Zoroaster set beautiful moral examples for us to pattern our lives after, but Christ was more than a good moral example for us to follow. Mohammed is regarded as a prophet who revealed the will of God to his followers. Christ was indeed a great teacher, a beautiful example, a prophet; but He was much more than that. He arose from the dead and only God can come back to life after death.

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scripture, and that, he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers . . . James . . . me (Paul)" (1 Cor. 15:3-8).

There are many reasons for believing Christ was the Son of God--His virgin birth, His preexistence, His sinless life, and His mighty works all bear witness to His deity. But, of course, the crowning proof of it, of course, is His resurrection from the dead.

-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE

In accordance with KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Webster County Coal, LLC, 1146 Monarch Street Suite 350 Lexington KY 40513 has applied for Phase I, II, and III bond release on increment no. 2 of permit no. 917-5023 which was last issued on July 25, 2025. The application covers an area of approximately 0.25 surface acres located 1.6 miles from Lisman in Webster County.

The permit area is approximately 1.6 miles from the intersection of KY-270 and KY-874 and approximately .66 miles southeast of Fredricks Ditch.

The bond now in effect for increment no. 2 is a surety bond in the amount of \$75,000. 100% of the original bond amount of \$75,000 is included in the application for release.

Reclamation work performed includes: The permittee has successfully completed all surface coal mining and reclamation operations in accordance with the approved reclamation plan, such that the land is capable of supporting the post mining land use approved pursuant to 405 KAR 16:210 or 405 KAR 18:220; and has achieved compliance with the requirements of KRS Chapter 350, 405 KAR Chapters 7 through 24, and 405 KAR 10:020, Section 3(2) and release of 0.25 acres.

Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Field Services, 300 Sower Boulevard Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601 by Friday, May 15th, 2026.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for 9:00 AM on Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Madisonville Regional Office, State Office Building, Third Floor, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. The hearing will be cancelled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by May 15th, 2026.

4/15c