

Heading to college?

As college students across Kentucky return to campus, a new academic year brings new opportunities. Whether you're a first-year student moving into a residence hall, returning for another semester, or balancing classes with work and family responsibilities, the habits you build in the coming months can make all the difference.

College is an investment in your future. For most students, success isn't about being the smartest person in the classroom. It's about consistently doing the basics well. Attend class, even when attendance isn't required. Keep up with assignments instead of waiting until the last minute. Study a little each day rather than trying to learn everything the night before an exam. Those simple habits often separate students who merely get by from those who thrive.

Do not overlook one of the greatest resources available to you: your professors. Office hours exist for a reason. If you're struggling with course material, have questions about an assignment, or simply want to learn more about a subject, take

advantage of the opportunity to meet with your instructors. Building those relationships can improve your understanding of the material while opening doors to internships, research opportunities, references, and career advice.

Equally important is becoming involved outside the classroom. Joining a student organization, participating in campus events, volunteering in the community, or serving in student government helps develop leadership skills that employers value. These experiences also introduce you to classmates who share your interests and can lead to lifelong friendships and professional connections. A college education isn't just about earning credits—it's about developing the communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that prepare you for life after graduation.

The value of education extends well beyond the classroom. Research from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education shows that college degrees and workforce credentials can provide a substantial boost to lifetime earnings, often totaling \$1 million or more

over the course of a career. Kentuckians who earn a bachelor's degree can expect to earn nearly \$1 million more during their working years than someone whose education ends with a high school diploma. Even completing some college or earning an associate degree significantly increases lifetime earnings and expands career opportunities.

The financial benefits continue as education advances. Kentuckians who earn doctoral or professional degrees - sometimes called "terminal degrees" because they are the highest level of education available in a particular field, such as a Ph.D., medical degree, or law degree - can expect to earn about \$2 million more over their careers than workers with only a high school diploma. While every career path is different, the overall message is clear: investing in education and job training often pays off for decades through higher wages, greater job stability, and expanded career opportunities. That in turn translates into quality of life, health, and happiness.

Kentucky's employers continue to need skilled workers in fields ranging from health care and engineering to education,

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JAMES TIPTON

SCHS Senior brings history to life with memorized Declaration of Independence

BY TERRI COOPER

One of the most memorable moments of Spencer County's America250 celebration came from a young man who proved that history is not simply something we read about—it is something we can carry forward.

Spencer County High School senior Zachary Smith took the stage during the county's America250 celebration and recited the Declaration of Independence entirely from memory.

Standing before a crowd gathered to commemorate America's 250th anniversary, Smith delivered the historic document with confidence, clarity, and remarkable poise. For several minutes, the words written nearly 250 years ago came alive as they were spoken once again by a member of Spencer County's newest generation.

Memorizing the Declaration of Independence is no small accomplishment. At more than 1,300 words, the document is filled with complex language, historical significance, and the ideals upon which the nation was founded.



Photo submitted

Smith's dedication to learning it by heart demonstrated an impressive commitment to both the challenge and the history behind the words.

His presentation was especially fitting during Spencer County's America250 celebration, which focused not only on the birth of the United States, but also on the Revolutionary War generation who helped shape our nation and the local stories that connect Spencer County to that history.

The celebration brought those stories to life through patriotic ceremonies, historical demonstrations, cemetery dedications, church tours, music, and family activities. Descendants of Revolutionary War

soldiers took part in the festivities, historic sites were highlighted, and the community came together to remember the people whose sacrifices helped create the freedoms we enjoy today.

Among all of those activities, Smith's recitation offered a powerful connection between the past and the future.

History can sometimes feel distant—something found in old documents, faded headstones, and dates in a textbook. But when a young person stands before a crowd and speaks the words of the Declaration from memory, that history suddenly feels very much alive.

The America250 celebration may have officially concluded, but moments like Zachary Smith's recitation are part of the legacy it leaves behind. They remind us that preserving history is not simply about looking backward. It is about making sure the stories, sacrifices, and ideals of those who came before us are understood by the generations who will carry them forward.

SEE **SCHS/PAGE B4**

Five Fall lawn care tips for a healthier yard

After the heat and stress of summer, fall is an important time to give your lawn some extra attention. For Kentucky homeowners with cool-season lawns, especially tall fescue, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension recommendations emphasize fall as one of the best times to improve turf health and prepare the lawn for the following year.



BYRCE ROBERTS

1. FERTILIZE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

Fall fertilization encourages root development, improves turf density and helps lawns recover from summer stress. UK Extension recommends autumn and early winter as the best times to fertilize cool-season grasses such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. Before applying fertilizer, consider having your soil tested through the Spencer County Cooperative Extension office. A soil test can determine whether phosphorus, potassium or lime is needed and can help you avoid unnecessary applications. Thanks to the Spencer County Conservation District, this is a free service for all Spencer County residents. For each sample, we need about a pint of soil (sandwich bag) with your information on it and it needs to be labeled so that you know

where each sample came from, such as Lawn 1, North Lawn, etc.

2. SEED THIN OR BARE AREAS.

Fall is the preferred season for establishing cool-season grasses in Kentucky. Late August through September provides favorable conditions because warm soil encourages germination while cooler air temperatures reduce stress on young grass plants. Turf-type tall fescue is a dependable choice for many Kentucky lawns. When overseeding, good seed-to-soil contact and adequate moisture are essential for success.

3. CONTROL BROADLEAF WEEDS.

Fall is an excellent time to manage troublesome broadleaf weeds. Dandelion, white clover and other perennial broadleaf weeds are actively storing energy in their roots during fall. Properly timed postemergence herbicide applications can provide effective control. Always identify the weed correctly and carefully follow herbicide label directions.

4. KEEP MOWING PROPERLY.

Continue mowing as long as the lawn is actively growing. Avoid removing more than one-third of the grass blade during a single mowing. Maintaining the proper

mowing height encourages a stronger root system and helps turf compete with weeds. Grass clippings can normally be left on the lawn, where they decompose and recycle nutrients.

5. KEEP LEAVES FROM SMOTHERING THE LAWN.

Don't allow a thick layer of fallen leaves to remain on turf for long periods. Heavy leaf cover can block sunlight and hold excess moisture around grass plants. Rake leaves or use a mulching mower to chop manageable amounts into smaller pieces that can decompose naturally.

A little attention to your lawn this fall can lead to thicker, healthier turf next spring.

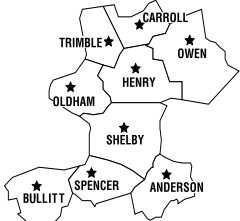
Feel free to contact me at your Spencer County Cooperative Extension Service at 477-2217 or you can email me at broberts@uky.edu. You can visit the Spencer County Extension Services' website at www.spencerextension.com.

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MAJOR FARM AND LAND ABSOLUTE AUCTION

LLOYD EADES ESTATE

SATURDAY AUGUST 22ND 11:00AM EASTERN TIME

277 ACRE FARM IN 5 PARCELS, 4700 SQ FT HOME, TENANT HOME, BARNs,
LONG ROAD FRONTAGE, BUILDING PARCELS, SHELBY COUNTY, KY



LOCATION: 6995 LaGrange Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065

REAL ESTATE: **PARCEL 1:** 78 Acre parcel with 1,242 square foot modular home/tenant house, barn, and machinery shed. The home has three bedrooms and two baths. The land is mostly cleared and currently in crops and hay.

PARCEL 2: 3,700 finished square foot custom 5-bedroom 2.5 bath home on 5 acres, 36 x 50 metal barn/shop/storage building. This Quality home has many added features including a walk-out basement, attached two-car garage, large primary suite with whirlpool tub and walk-in shower, spacious kitchen, enclosed sunroom, large laundry area on main floor, and a family room with brick fireplace.

PARCEL 3: 179-acre crop farm with long road frontage, good crop and hay land, and access from LaGrange Road as well as Clore Jackson via an easement.

PARCEL 4: 6 acre building site on Clore Jackson Road. This is a nice building site for your rural residential home or an ideal tract to add to tract 3 for even more potential.

PARCEL 5: 8 acre building site on Clore Jackson Road. As well as Tract 4, this tract is ideal for building or to use in combination with other tracts.

TRACTS WILL BE SOLD INDIVIDUALLY AND OFFERED IN COMBINATIONS USING THE ULTIMATE CHOICE METHOD.
TERMS: A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid to determine the total sales price. The winning bidder of a parcel will need to put down as a deposit the day of the auction 10% of the total sales price and the balance will be due on or before September 22nd 2026. Parcels are sold as is.

PUBLIC INSPECTION SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH 2:00 PM TO 4:0 PM EASTERN TIME

A WILLARD AUCTIONS COMPANY
H. BARRY SMITH, REALTORS AND AUCTIONEERS
223 MIDLAND PARK DRIVE, SHELBYVILLE, KY 40065
502-633-2746 888-631-2746

Auctioneers: H. Barry Smith (CAI), Jimmy Willard (CAI), Shawn Willard (CAI), Jeff Riggle (CAI), Patrick Hargadon, Todd Barlow, Rob Winlock, Dean Burk, Courtney Roberts



LEGAL NOTICE

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Proposed Tax Notification

District: 541 Spencer County - School Year: 2026 - 2027

The Spencer County Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax levy of 60.3 cents on real property and 60.3 cents on personal property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 60.1 cents on real property and 60.1 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$12,308,246.56. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 60.3 cents on real property and 60.3 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$13,425,659.42. Of this amount, \$812,717.41 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 58.4 cents on real property and 58.4 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$13,002,628.69.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of \$1,117,412.86 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: offset SEEK adjustment due to assessment growth, \$449,642.63; historically not collected (2.09%), \$279,665.61; building fund, \$224,821.31; cost of collections, \$23,741.38; cost of operations, \$139,541.93.

This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017. The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.