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A large number of guests attended a public hearing at the Caldwell County Courthouse, where the Caldwell County Project Development Board revealed three possible sites for the proposed judicial center and solicited feedback from those present.

Community weighs in on 3 sites proposed for judicial center

BY ALEXA BLACK

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The Caldwell County Project Development Board disclosed three potential locations for the proposed judicial center, asking for input from guests in attendance at the public hearing at the

Caldwell County Courthouse.

The Kentucky General Assembly authorized the modern judicial center project for fiscal years 2024-2026. Ownership of the facility will belong to Caldwell County, while the Administrative Office of the Courts will fund

construction and upkeep from the Judicial Branch budget.

The project is estimated to cost \$33.1 million, and the state will fully finance it through annual debt service payments capped at \$2.8 million.

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Mason Watkins

"I remember being here at noon on that next day looking at the devastation, wondering how we were going to rebuild but knowing we had to, and knowing we would do it together," Beshear said.

Beshear, Dawson Springs leaders break ground on city park rebuild

BY ALEXIS BARRETT, MASON WATKINS
FOR THE TIMES LEADER AND HERALD LEDGER

DAWSON SPRINGS — Gov. Andy Beshear joined Dawson Springs leaders and community members Friday to break ground on the rebuilding of the city's pool and park, which were destroyed in the December 2021 tornado.

"This groundbreaking has been a long time coming," Beshear said. "The last time I was here, I visited the memorial to those 19 community members lost in the 2021 tornado outbreak. As we reflected that day, we took a moment of silence. And you know what I remember? I remember what we heard. We heard the hammers from the construction going on on all of these houses around us. It was in a very solemn moment, an amazing, incredible sound to hear. It was a sound of progress. It was a sound of hope. And we're going to hear that again today when we break ground on this park."

Beshear emphasized his connection to the region, as his family is from the area. "As you drive into town, I pass where my grandparents are buried," Beshear said. "We passed this park on our way downtown, and then towards where their house used to be."

His grandfather — and Dawson Springs Mayor Jenny Sewell's father — preached at Primitive Baptist Church, which was destroyed by the tornado.

"I remember being here at noon on that next day looking at the devastation, wondering how we were going to rebuild but knowing we had

SEE PARK/PAGE A2

Western Kentucky residents share benefits of chicken ownership

State House passes bill addressing backyard chickens

BY ALEXA BLACK

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LYON COUNTY — Members of the Kentucky House of Representatives voted to pass House Bill 276 earlier this month, which would allow Kentucky residents to keep up to six backyard chickens on residential properties while setting guidelines for local regulation.

The proposal would allow homeowners to raise as many

SEE CHICKEN/PAGE A2



ALEXA BLACK | Herald Ledger
Local Amanda Bridges lives in the outskirts of Eddyville in Lyon County, and has had backyard chickens since July 2025, raising them from chicks. Her husband, Garrett, completed their coop in August. Now, they are fully grown and provide immense benefits to her family.

Marion stands strong in vigil for missing local woman

BY ALEXA BLACK
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MARION — The Marion community and nearby residents stood in prayer and a candlelight vigil Friday for missing woman ShaDonn Clark. All gathered for the vigil at the rocket at Crittenden County Middle School, which is a staple for the community.

Leading the observance, Pastor Curtis Franklin of Sturgis Cumberland Presbyterian Church opened with scripture, offering heartfelt reflections and prayer to those in attendance.

He spoke about hope, patience, and the sustaining power of faith in moments of uncertainty, and encouraged everyone to continue supporting one another while remaining steadfast in prayer for ShaDonn.

Those in attendance carried lit candles and stood together in silence for ShaDonn's safe return, lifting their voices in collective prayer, while asking for strength and peace for her family as well.

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According to The Crittenden Press, the Crittenden

County Sheriff's Office has taken the lead in the investigation as of Feb. 15.

The sheriff's office is now heading the inquiry into a 38-year-old Marion woman who reportedly went missing earlier this month. Maria ShaDonn Clark, known as ShaDonn, last communicated with family in the early morning of Feb. 5. Officials say she left her father's home in Crittenden County after visiting a friend in Alexandria, Kentucky, departed

SEE VIGIL/PAGE A2



A crowd gathered for a candlelight vigil for missing woman ShaDonn Clark on Friday, Feb. 13, at the rocket at Crittenden County Middle School.

THE TIMES LEADER



OBITUARIES

Barbara Johnson
Russell Pierpont
Verna Hammonds

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Today: Mostly cloudy. High 69, low 55.

Thursday: Rain shower. High 69, low 45.

Friday: Mostly sunny. High 57, low 38.

Saturday: Rain. High 52, low 29.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. High 41, low 22.

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