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Jackson County Public Schools Weigh Gains and Gaps in New Kentucky Assessment Results



The McKee Elementary Bulldogs ranked in the Highest Performing "Blue" Category. McKee Elementary ranked #18 among elementary schools

JCPS Home of TWO BLUE SCHOOLS!! (Highest Performing)



The Sand Gap Elementary Tigers ranked in the Highest Performing "Blue" Category. Sand Gap Elementary ranked #70 among elementary schools

District reading results exceed statewide rates at the elementary and high school levels, while mathematics remains a key area for improvement

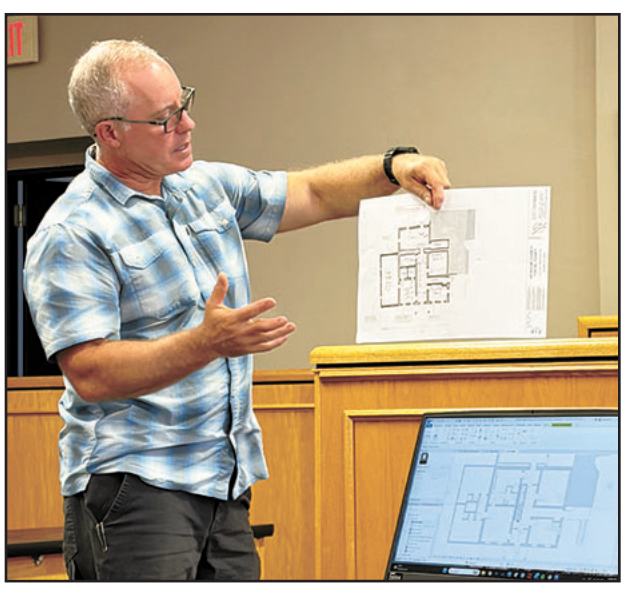
The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) publicly released assessment and accountability data for the 2025-2026 school year on Oct. 15, as required by state statute and the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. Results are shared through a color-coded dashboard with five colors: blue, green, yellow, orange and red, in order from highest to lowest ranking.

McKee Elementary scored an Overall Combined Indicator Rank of 96.1 For Mr. Truett and the McKee Elementary Bulldogs, this is the fourth consecutive year they have earned a Blue ranking and the highest performance level possible! McKee Elementary ranked as #18 (out of 715) among elementary schools throughout the entire state of Kentucky! Sand Gap Elementary scored an Overall Combined Indicator Rank of 85.7 placing the Tigers in the Blue Category and the Highest Performance level possible. (Last year they ranked Green) Sand Gap Elementary was ranked #70 (out of 715) among elementary schools throughout the entire state of Kentucky! Tyner Elementary scored an Overall Combined Indicator Rank of 49.1 placing them in the Orange Category. (Last year they ranked Yellow). The Jackson County Middle School scored an Overall Combined Indicator Rank of 56.2 placing them in the Yellow Category. (Last year they ranked Orange) The Jackson County High School scored an Overall Combined Indicator Rank of 76.4 placing them in the Green Category for the third year in a row. *(It is important to note that the private Christian schools in the county are not required to take this standardized assessment.)*

SEE SCHOOLS - PAGE 7

Community Meeting to Provide Input on Old Jail Project





The "Old Jail" in McKee was the first building to have an indoor water system in the City of McKee. The architect from Nesbit/JCB shows a conceptual layout for interior

Jerry Sparks
Co-Editor/Senior Reporter

Interim Judge Paul Hays called a community meeting on Wednesday, October 14 in the courtroom of the old Courthouse in McKee to solicit input and provide an opportunity for public participation in the project. The community meeting was very informative and insightful. The architects from Nesbit/JCB presented a conceptual proposal of

SEE OLD JAIL - PAGE 7

Jackson County Voters Prepare for Kentucky's 2026 General Election

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3

Kentucky's 2026 General Election will take place Tuesday, November 3, with polls open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time. Jackson County voters should make a plan now by confirming their registration, reviewing a sample ballot and checking their assigned polling location before heading out.

The deadline to register for this election was October 5. Eligible voters may request a mail-in absentee ballot through 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on October 20. Excused in-person absentee voting is scheduled for October 21–23 and October 26–28, while no-excuse early voting will be held October 29–31. Completed mail-in ballots must reach the county clerk by 6 p.m. local time on Election Day.

Local Information for Jackson County

The Jackson County Clerk's Office manages voter registration, polling locations, voting equipment and election results. Its main office is at 100 Main Street in McKee, and voters may call 606-287-7800 with election questions. Because polling and early-voting arrangements

SEE VOTE - Page 2

COLUMNS

Briar Philosopher See - Page 4
Shooting it Straight See - Page 4
Notes to Consider See - Page 4
Road to Mental Wellness See - Page 2

Laurel County Becomes Center of Kentucky Measles Outbreak



Public Health Officials are strongly recommending vaccination to help prevent measles

A measles outbreak that began in Laurel County in late August has grown to 56 confirmed cases, making the county one of the hardest-hit communities in Kentucky's widening public-health response. State officials say the Laurel County cases involve unvaccinated people from several large households that have remained isolated from the broader community. As of the state's latest update, officials had identified no public exposure locations connected to the local outbreak.

The sharp increase in Laurel County

See MEASLES - Page 7

