

COMMUNITY

Student Achievements Take Center Stage at Rowan BOE Meeting

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Members of the Rowan County Board of Education, including Superintendent Michael Rowe, met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting, on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:00pm, which was broadcast live on the

Rowan Schools YouTube page. The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board were then presented a presentation by several Rowan County Middle School TSA students, who competed at the state level, and using the "Valiant Viking skills" they have learned; and several of the Rowan County Middle School

speech team who spoke about what they have been involved in during this school year, including awards the team has won, including two state champions, who did readings for the board and assembled guests. A couple of administrations also spoke about the Rowan County Senior High School Speech Team, as well, and their involvement during

tournaments, including at the state level and nationals, as well. The RC-SHS, middle, and youth club wrestling team coach also spoke to the board, as well, and gave updates regarding their second year of the growing wrestling program, with qualifiers for the state level, as well.

Following the presentations, the board approved the minutes from the pre-

vious month's meeting; approved the payment of claims.; approved the consent agenda; approved the treasurer's report; and heard the attendance and enrollment updates, which is up since last year.

The board approved the amended '26-'27 Rowan County school calendars; approved the 1st reading of the amended alterna-

tive education program for all grade levels; approved the 1st reading of the drug testing educational program, which is being "proactive, not reactive"; and heard some educational updates regarding students and staff.

Following the approval of the Superintendent's report and with no closed session, the meeting was subsequently adjourned.

Fiscal Court discuss Lee Branch and Rock Fork bridge repairs during April meeting

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Members of the Rowan County Fiscal Court, including Judge-Executive Harry T. Clark, met on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 8:00am, at the Rowan County Courthouse for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting, which was broadcast live on the Rowan County Fiscal Court Facebook page.

Judge-Exec. Clark called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call with all magistrates present.

The Judge spoke about the newly installed playground equipment at the community park; the ribbon cutting scheduled for the Senior Center on Tuesday, April 22, 2026, at 10am; and the legislative session in Frankfort, Ky., regarding senior meals not being added into the budget; but the

roads that were submitted for Rowan County in the legislative session were approved for blacktopping.

The court approved the minutes from the last meeting, held on March 17, 2026.

Road Department Supervisor Steve Kelsey reports to the court that mowing season has begun and that blacktopping season is coming up as well. He also spoke about the recent Rock Fork bridge funding and was glad to see it had come through.

County Jailer Wes Coldiron reports to the court that everything at the jail is running well, and the state inmate population is down, and that state inmates housed in the detention center does eat into the budget.

Environmental Services Director Tyler Brown reports to the court about trash pickup throughout

the county; said that the most recent Free Disposal Day went well, and that an upcoming Tire Disposal event is also coming up, also. He also spoke about the recent fire at the Recycling Center, as well. He also said that he applied for a crumb rubber grant for the playground at the Community Park.

Animal Control Officer Kim Adams reports to the court regarding updates at the animal shelter, which includes the current shelter population and number of adoptions.

EMS Director Homer Lewis reported to the court that in the 10 years that he has been working for Rowan County EMS that the current fleet is one of the best, and he spoke about how much he appreciates the Fiscal Court for all that they have done. He said that the EMS service is

up to 2,127 runs for the year, which amounts to around 19.2 runs per day. He did mention that one of the trucks has broken down and is requiring maintenance.

Under New Business, the court approved the Rowan County Fiscal Court health insurance policy renewal, at a 4.93% increase; approved the 1st reading of an ordinance regarding Certified Recovery housing regulation; and approved the Rowan County Detention Center nicotine products bid award, to the only bid submitted.

The court awarded the bid for the Lee Branch bridge repairs to Stegall Contracting; approved the Detention Center pressure washing; approved the rejection of the three Amphitheatre RFQ quotes, to wait for a bigger sampling, and extend the deadline; approved the Road Depart-

ment employee transfers of Nick Brown and Tracy Hamilton; approved the hiring of individuals as Grounds Maintenance seasonal employees; and approved the Jail Employee transfer, as well.

The court made record of renaming Edgewater Road to Peridot Road; approved a resolution regarding Public Library appointment procedures; approved the appointment of Josh Wright to the PVA Board of Appeals; and approved the hiring of Abigail Stampfer Clifton to the Rowan County EMS

The court approved the acceptance of the Rowan County Sheriff Audit CY '25; approved the Detention Center housing contract with Elliott County; and approved the 1st reading of a budget amendment, in the amount of \$411,450.41.

Before adjournment, the court approved the

budget transfers; approved the quarterly financial statement; approved the monthly financial statement; and approved the consideration of monthly bills; approved the purchase of a Boyd Cat gravel reclaimer for the Road Department; approved to send out for bids for bridge repairs on Rock Fork Bridge; approved a contract with Angie's Buds & Blooms for judicial center landscaping; approved the Rowan County Clerk's audit; and approved the paving price from Hinkle Contracting at the County Services building.

The court then went into closed session, and adjourned directly thereafter, with committee meetings held directly following closed session.

\$2 Million Awarded to 94 Tourism Organizations in 82 Counties To Boost Kentucky's Tourism Industry and Economy

Last Thursday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that 94 tourism marketing organizations across 82 counties have received \$2 million through Team Kentucky's Regional Marketing and Matching Funds Program.

"Kentucky Tourism is a \$14.3 billion industry that is essential to our economy, our people and our future," said Gov. Beshear. "Team Kentucky is proud to support our hardworking tourism organizations with the resources they need to at-

tract more people to our New Kentucky Home to visit, work and live."

The Eastern Kentucky North Region, which includes Greenup, Carter, Boyd, Rowan, Elliott, Lawrence, Bath, Montgomery, Menifee, Morgan, Johnson, Martin, Magoffin, Floyd, and Pike

Last year, Gov. Beshear announced that 87 tourism marketing organizations across 80 counties are receiving \$2 million through the Regional Marketing and Matching Funds Program.

The Regional and Matching Funds Program, administered by the Department of Tourism, provides local nonprofit tourism organizations with financial assistance for marketing. The matching funds allow organizations to develop and implement marketing strategies, attract travelers and showcase the unique cultural, historical and natural attractions of their regions. From fiscal year 2022-2025, the program has distributed \$7.5 million.

Daniel Boone National Forest lifts fire restrictions

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service lifted the temporary restriction on open burning on the Daniel Boone National Forest on May 1. Backcountry campfires are once again permitted.

Widespread rainfall over the past several days has reduced overall fire danger in eastern Kentucky. Dry grasses and bare trees left from winter have "greened up" and been replaced by moisture-rich new growth that is less likely to serve as fuel for a wildfire.

Despite improving conditions, much of Kentucky remains in a moderate drought. It's important to exercise

extreme caution when burning outdoors and ensure that all fires are properly monitored and extinguished before leaving them unattended.

Additional campfire safety reminders:

-Make sure your campfire is a safe distance from your tent or anything that can ignite unexpectedly.

-Use rocks to create a fire ring in the center of a large, cleared area.

-Use the Drown-Stir-Drown-Feel method to put your campfire out completely.

For more information about the Daniel Boone National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/r08/danielboone or follow the Forest on social media @DanielBooneNF.

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