COMMUNITY

Fiscal Court cont. from pg. 9

sites on the year so far, as well. He also mentioned the most recent HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) event, in which about 90 cars showed up.

EMS Director Levi Hanshaw reports to the court that the ambulance service responded to 560 calls for service in the month of October; spoke about the events that the EMS service has attended; mentioned the ambulance wreck and the injuries the three EMS employees received; spoke about short-term staffing at the department; and spoke about the recent paramedic class, as well. He also talked about a couple of ambulance truck repairs and mentioned that the ambulance that was involved in the wreck was a total loss.

Under Old Business, the court approved the passing of a budget amendment, in the amount of $1,313,728.62.

Under New Business, the court approved a couple of lease agreements with the American Legion Post 126 - McBrayer Road and the American Red Cross – County Services building.

The court approved an authorization to enter into agreement with KYTC, regarding the 80/20 bridge program on Riddle Fork; approved an authorization to commission repairs to Lower Craney Bridge and Brushy Bridge; and subsequently approved an authorization for Stegall General Contracting for bridge repairs to Upper Craney, as well.

The court approved the Recovery Rowan County – BCOR grant agreement; approved an authorization to accept the lowest and best bid for an ambulance truck, not to exceed $300,000.00, and for the judge to submit a $75,000.00 down payment; and approved the purchase of a used ambulance truck, up to $100,000.00, for an emergency assist, to replace the ambulance that was involved in the wreck; approved the quote proposals for purchase from FirstNet Fleet Monitoring, regarding tracking on county vehicles; approved the quote for the purchase of a Video Laryngoscope Module; approved the hiring of part-time EMT's Brandon Berry and Randy Stevens to the Rowan County EMS Service; approved to change the position of Senior Paramedic Kevin Brown to the temporary Supervisor position.

The court approved the iWorkq Permitting Module proposal, for the Rowan County Building Inspector; approved the Recovery Rowan County – BCOR grant agreement, with the Rowan County Detention Center; and approved two appointments to the Rowan County Extension District Board.

Before going into closed session, the court approved an authorization for the County Treasurer to remit payment to election officers; approved an interfund cash transfer - ARPA to the EMS; approved the budget transfers; approved the monthly financial statement; approved the consideration of monthly bills; approved to authorize the County Treasurer to make payments to the Rowan County Sheriff's office, regarding overpayment; approved the resolution for architectural services grant agreement; and approved to change the pay rate of the County Judge-Executive Secretary Kaitlyn Bryant.

The meeting then went into closed session and was subsequently adjourned afterwards, with committee meetings held directly afterwards.



Photo courtesy of Rowan County Fiscal Court Facebook page

On Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, the Rowan County Fiscal Court posted on their Facebook page, "After 26 years of dedicated service to the Rowan County Road Department, we're celebrating the retirement of one of our own!

Thank you, Chris Stegall, for more than two decades of devotion to Rowan County. Your contributions have made a difference in our community, and you will certainly be missed. Congratulations on your retirement! We wish you all the best in this next chapter!"

Fleming Author cont. from pg. 9

best dairy goats, along with some chickens, all in a desperate search of acceptance and a chance. It was as a modern-day Grapes of Wrath from west to east though, we are from TN originally, but our journey of survival began in the mountains of northern CA. Our time of homelessness and how we got here is an incredible story in itself. A miracle really and funny for sure!"

She continues, "My sons, Travis and Jacob Finney, and I live on a growing dairy goat farm, Forever Yours Farm, with hopes of it becoming a thriving, productive goat milk producer. Clean, rich goat milk is the best and so good for you."

Regarding her novel, she remarks, "The Final Word is a story that centers around the brutal murder of my dear father Junior Taylor, but it is far more than an account of that horrific event. The real heart of The Final Word is of the power of forgiveness, how real our God is, Southern roots, and that beauty truly can come out of the ugliest of times."

She continues, "I am a first-time published author who knew nothing of the publishing world, so this has been quite a journey for me to say the least. I originally had handwritten this book in a notebook for my children to have as a way to remember who their Papa was and to never lose sight of how great God is. But after some time, it became very apparent to me that this powerful story was meant to be known far beyond just my family.

The thought of others reading such personal, intimate details about my family and seeing my heart was scary to me and I actually cried when I felt God's leading for it to be published but I quickly picked myself up and got to work to do what I was meant to do.

In my ignorance I had thought that if someone had a good story that was all it took for a publishing company to take notice of your manuscript and the door for a book to be published would be opened. I learned quickly that is not at all how it works. I had a compelling story yes and written it to the best of my abilities, yet I quickly found out that was not enough to even just be able to submit my manuscript to a publisher. I had nothing the publishing world looked for, no money, no name for myself, no social media, and no book agent. I do have determination though and the will to do what my God tells me to do, but to tell you the truth, both ran terribly thin with constant rejections regularly pouring in. Finally, after more than a year, Wipf and Stock Publishers saw the value and importance of The Final Word and told me it was a story that had to be told. I definitely agreed.

So here we are, a year later after publication and the work is still not done. This book is published and beautiful yes, but it's just sitting in a warehouse not being read. My hopes and prayers for this book is that people all across the country and beyond will read this story and it will minister to them, encourage them, bless them in life changing ways."

Regarding Jenny's novel, Hank Graeser, author of Still on the Way: A Father's Journey to Hope, praises, "A dream portends the violent storm that threatens to swamp the boat of Taylor's life when her beloved father is murdered. The reader willing to brave the storm that ensues and hold on with her through chaos, trauma, and uncertainty will see the master she loves speak 'Peace, be still.' Through a miraculous, surreal act of forgiveness to the murderer, the storm is stilled, and she can live on."

To order Jenny Taylor's novel The Final Word: A True Account of Murder and Redemption, contact your favorite bookseller or order directly from the publisher, via www.wipfandstock.com, phone (541)344-1528, or e-mail at orders@wipfandstock.com.

Charles' Tribute cont. from pg. 7

would never forget the scenes from those awful confrontations, never forget the acres upon acres piled with the dead and wounded who wore the Blue and the Gray.

He would likewise, never forget the Battle of Missionary Ridge, or the Georgia campaign and the Battle of Dalton, or the Battle of Resaca. It was here that the members of the Confederate Kentucky Fourth Infantry would face the members of the Union Kentucky Fourth Infantry.

It was here, after the battle that one lone merchant picked up three bushel boxes full of bullets found along the battlefield, and it was held as truth that over 100,00 pounds of similar bullets had been collected by other local merchants.

Then came the bloody engagements of Dallas and Atlanta, and shortly afterwards Young had made an unbelievable stand with a small group of fellow Kentuckians at Utoy Creek.

Where only a handful of Orphans had slaughtered nearly 200 Yankees.

And finally, came Jonesboro.

And so Lt. Young marveled as he glanced once more to where the Union officer had fallen. It was a small knoll above the stone depot at a place called Jonesboro.

When the Union soldiers swept around the Confederate flank, the Kentucky Orphans drove forward and at the exact spot where Lt. Young had killed the Union officer, the violence of the battle reached its climax, and Lt. Young was shot while assisting one of his two dearest friends, Lt. Neal.

Young was carried from the battle and placed in a crude wooden ambulance next to his other dear friend Lt. Robert H. Lindsey, of Scott County.

Lindsey, like Neal, would die that night.

Lt. Young would live.

He would always believe he had been spared because of his daring sniper shot he had made at great risk to himself earlier in the engagement.

Young survived the war, though he could only walk with crutches for six months and walked with a decided limp for the rest of his long life.

He returned to Nicholas County.

He lead a full and prosperous life and nearly five full decades after the American Civil War ended, he would return to the battlefields of his youth and recall what he had witnessed.

But these are other stories, dear reader, and worthy of closer examination in the future, if the Good Lord is willing.

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Rowan County Fiscal Court at the Rowan County Courthouse, Office of Rowan County Judge-Executive, until 10:00 AM on Friday, December 4, for the purchase of a Type I ambulance featuring a new 2027 Ford F-450 4x4 gasoline-powered chassis or documented equivalent, with a new or reconditioned ambulance module.

The ambulance shall meet applicable CAAS, GSA, or NFPA standards and include an upgraded rear suspension system, LED emergency lighting, siren system, rear heating and air conditioning, medical oxygen system, backup camera, and Stryker-compatible cot mounting provisions. Additional requirements are outlined in the complete bid specifications, available upon request to Levi.Hanshaw@rcky.us.

All bidders must be licensed to do business in Rowan County. The Rowan County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the best interest of the citizens of Rowan County.

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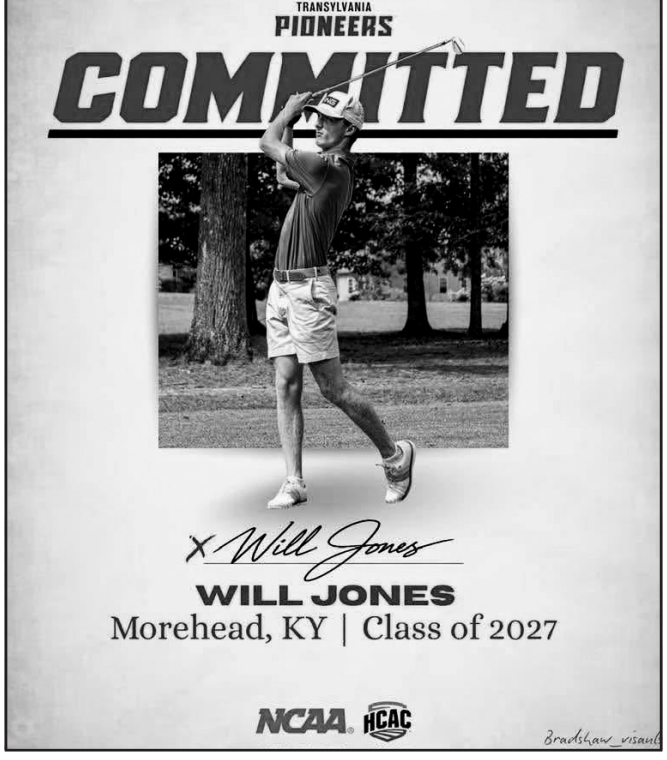


Photo courtesy of Rowan County Athletics Facebook page
Congratulations to RCSHS's Will Jones for committing to play golf next season at Transy!!

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