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# Fairytales and support for kids



Photos by BEN SHEROAN/Paxton Media Group

Dressed as three of the Five Little Ducks in the children's song are, from left, LaDonna Eastham, Brittany Bright and Rachel Dobson of Taylor Regional Health Clinic. The facility on Kingswood Drive was one of more than 25 booths providing information, advice and free items for families of youngsters at the Mother Goose Preschool Palooza last weekend.



Above: Dressed as Humpty Dumpty, Grant Bays greeted guests Saturday during the Mother Goose-themed Preschool Palooza event staged at Taylor County Extension Service by Green River Early Childhood. Bays, who is marketing and outreach director for One Cross Health Clinic in Campbellsville, was posted at the company's booth at the event.



Left: Places for kids to play and learn were operated by some vendors set up Saturday at the Mother Goose Preschool Palooza. The ninth annual event is organized by Green River Early Childhood, which provided tote bags packed with games and information about services available for families.

# Chamber director highlights 'overachiever' status in UK report

BY CKNJ STAFF

After a year leading the Campbellsville-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce, Jason Keltner addressed the monthly membership meeting with some optimistic views and a couple challenges.

"When you look at everything we're doing — from tourism to Chamber initiatives — the economic impact happening locally cannot be overstated," Keltner said during his speech last Thursday at the Extension Service office.

He cited the annual report issued by the University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics, which identified Taylor County as an "overachiever."

At a time when barriers to employment are cited by economic development officials as a widespread issue, the labor force participation in Taylor County is defined in the UK report as "significantly above expectations."

It is the only county in Kentucky with that highest rating. The report goes on to say the workforce ranking puts Taylor County in exclusive company nationally and makes it a model worthy of research.

"Fewer than 2 percent of counties nationally perform significantly above expectations and Taylor County is one of the 62 that do," the report says.

Barriers to employment can be as significant as lacking proper education or workplace skills but often involve family issues such as the availability of affordable childcare or a lack of a reliable vehicle or appropriate workplace apparel.

The Gatton College report helps Taylor County resi-

dents see the community in a new light, Keltner said.

"Because sometimes, it takes an outside perspective to remind us just how special what we're building here really is," he said.

In addition to workforce advantages, Keltner said the community is well positioned to compete for industrial development. He specifically mentioned \$1.75 million in state funding from the Kentucky Product Development Initiative to develop a pad-ready site in the local Heartland Commerce & Technology Park.

The new bypass also provides improved access to the Bluegrass and Louis Nunn parkways and the state's six-year road plan includes early stages of planned improvement of U.S. 68 toward Greensburg and Ky. 210 to Hodgenville.

Keltner's role also includes directing local tourism efforts.

"Over the past year, we've seen strong data that reinforces what we already know — tourism is not just a nice addition to our economy, it's a key driver," he said. "It supports local businesses, creates jobs and brings new dollars in our community."

While expressing concern about ongoing closures at Green River Lake State Park, he shared details about the 50th Fourth of July Celebration and invited Chamber members to act as volunteers and ambassadors for the eight-day event.

He also mentioned the local Wayfinding Project, which is designed to make the community easier for visitors to navigate and more welcoming.

A collaboration embraced

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# Upgrades at ER entrance said to improve care for all

BY DENNIS GEORGE  
 PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Have a conversation with Mike Everett and there is a good chance it will lead to the CEO of Taylor Regional Hospital talking about how he wants to improve the care there, not just for patients but for their families as well.

One of the most recent changes is the new emergency entrance at the hospital.

"We now have a dedicated entrance for an ambulance or first responder and a dedicated entrance for the loved

ones of the patient being transported," Everett said. "We worked with Blevins Construction and we now have a vestibule and a waiting area for the families."

Previously, Everett said, EMS and family members might be rushing into the hospital at the same time, causing congestion and confusion at a time when prompt attention to a patient is paramount.

"It's been received well and I have heard a lot of good reports of people getting seen quicker," Everett said. "The EMS likes it because now they have their own dedicated

entrance to get patients in quicker."

There is an added benefit for those with those being attended by emergency personnel.

"When someone comes in with the patient, they will go to another entrance," Everett said. "There is someone from the hospital there to meet them as they come in in the hospital. We now have someone in the lobby to sit with them and to explain things to them. We think it enhances our care."

Several additional parking places are available near the emergency entrance.

# Trial date set for 2024 rape charges

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

A Campbellsville man charge with three counts of third-degree rape is scheduled to stand trial May 11 in Taylor Circuit Court.

Tashaun M. Hoskins appeared Friday before Judge Todd Spalding for a status hearing. A final pretrial

conference was set for April 14 with his jury trial scheduled roughly four weeks later.

Hoskins, 32, was indicted in October 2024 on the three rape charges plus one count of custodial interference.

The alleged acts occurred from July 10 and 13 of 2024, according to his indictment.

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