



WCHS FFA OFFICERS joined Judge/Executive Steve Henry last week as he signed a proclamation designating February 21-28 as National FFA Week in the county. Seated next to Henry are FFA president Saydee Cowan and vice-president Hunter Redfern. In the second row are Campbell Liggett, Breona Benson, Kalysta Pryor, Hannah Clark, Danielle Tapp, Trisha Clark, Molly Mitchell and Jaelyn Rakestraw; back row: Cali Walters, Ashby Walters, Gabe Vincent and Tripp Boles. FFA members will spend much of next week, hosting a cookout, hosting a teacher appreciation event, sending personalized letters to teachers, and wearing their FFA jackets and jeans for photo ops with all the staff who support them. They will also hold class competitions and the Ag Olympics.

National FFA Week

purpose to its members and those who take an active role in succeeding in citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism and cooperation. In signing the proclamation, Henry noted, "Webster County's heritage is built upon coal, farming, and family. Unfortunately, coal may come and go, but farming and family will always be here. What is always changing is that farming continues lean on technology and ingenuity. This is why agriculture education is so important and the FFA is so important. We have the best and brightest young people right here in Webster County. We all should be very thankful that agriculture education is still important to those students."

Locally, the FFA chapter has 105 members, one of the school's largest organizations, but about 250 students are enrolled in one or more of the agriculture pathways taught by Christina Ramage, Gabbi Major and Kylee Dame. The programs focus on hands-on applicable activities, and county residents can often see FFA members involved in community activities including Youth Ag Days, the Independence Bank Tractor Drive, canned food drives, and making plant donations to the county's three nursing/senior care home. Students also attend the Farm Machinery Show, the National FFA conference, the state convention, field days and regional competitions. The program provides

students the opportunity to participate in a variety of competitions and activities.

Most importantly are the classroom experiences and classes students have the opportunity to take through WC's agriculture and FFA programs. Five pathways are offered to Webster County students: plant science; environmental science; agri-business; animal science and ag power structural and technical systems. What do they learn? That list is long and comprehensive.

Plant science study includes greenhouse work, floral design, and crop science while students in the environmental science pathway study forestry, wildlife resources, natural resource preservation and hunting, conservation and plot resources. Agribusiness students study ag sales marketing and ag communications while learning the sales process, making mock sales calls, creating commercials, writing press releases and making speeches. They also study farm management, math (mostly taxes), business policies and marketing strategies.

Students enrolled in animal science work through veterinarian science, small animal science and participate in hands-on activities including how to restrain animals during vet care; suturing, giving vaccines, and the anatomy and physiology related to animal care. One of their liveliest days is the pet spa

they host where they bathe, trim nails and groom animals.

Ag power structural and technical systems students learn how to service small power equipment, repair small engines and much of the focus is on electric engines, hydraulics and non-renewable resources. Later this year they will study and use drones and GPS. The increased use of technology in today's agriculture industry has changed the landscape for farmers who now use tractors and combines as well as other machinery equipped with GPS, mapping and other specialized resources that tells them as they work the number of acres they have covered, how much seed they have used or how many bushels of crop they have harvested, and students know that they need the new knowledge to be successful in the industry.

With the broad variety of classes, most WCHS students enrolled in agriculture programs complete two pathways before they graduate, and many of those who complete the pathways are able to test and receive college credit for their work. The completion of pathways is directly connected to the school's state accountability for career readiness, according to Christina Ramage.

While any student can choose to follow ag pathways, they do not have to join FFA, but by choosing FFA, they are part of a nationwide network of individuals

who will spend their lives working in an ag related field.

Ms. Ramage told The Sebree Banner that she knew she wanted to teach, and although she is not from a farm family and is the first in her family to attend college, she wants to be part of helping students "be their own person, build their own path and become productive members of the community." The FFA program allows her to oversee 13 WCHS coop students who are employed in Webster, Union and Hopkins counties.

Just how important is the ag program to students? Saydee Cowan, the local FFA Chapter President, says "coming to Webster County from a school with no agriculture education showed me how truly important agriculture education is. I would never have known the job opportunities within agriculture if it was not for agriculture education." Cowan continued, "Agriculture education is important for many reasons, but the most important response is that agriculture is 100 percent necessary. Without agriculture, not only would we go without food, but we would have no homes, clothes and eventually no planet... Agriculture education will inspire future generations to protect the planet..."

Chapter Vice-President Hunter Redfern

says "Agriculture is the foundation of the future. With a population that is growing rapidly, agriculture grows more and more everyday..." For Redfern, "Everything changed when I stepped into my first agriculture class. For the first time since COVID, I felt as if I had found the place where I could fit in. Agriculture and FFA gave me something to focus on and allowed me to put in effort towards something I loved. It all started with my teachers. They saw potential in me long before I ever recognized it on my own. Instead of allowing me to stay comfort-

able, they encouraged me to step forward, try new things, and challenge myself. Through this I have learned how to lead, communicate and trust myself.

Perhaps David Tapp, president of the Webster County FFA Alumni, says it best. "FFA taught me the importance of working as a team, the value of good communication skills and the importance of a strong work ethic. The values I learned in FFA have helped me in every public job I have had, in my involvement in the community, and managing a small family farm."

TO WATER CUSTOMERS IN THE CITY OF DIXON

The City of Dixon wants to make all attempts to ensure its customers are aware of a change to your upcoming water bills.

Dixon Waterworks purchases water from Webster County Water District to distribute to our water customers. Recently, Webster County Water District, guided by the Kentucky Public Service Commission, increased their water rates. As a direct result of this increase, we unfortunately must respond with a rate increase of our own. We understand that any rate increase is an inconvenience; however, at this time it is necessary in order to allow us to continue to provide quality drinking water to our customers.

We anticipate this rate increase to be included in the next water bill you receive. If you have any questions regarding the increase, please contact our office.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter and look forward to continuing to serve you.

Correction

A picture on the front page of the Banner was misidentified in last week's issue. The pictured used is Marissa Walters, not Amy Wright. Both ladies did address the board of education, but Walters is pictured. We apologize for the error.

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**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
WEBSTER CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION 24-CI-00054**

ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC PLAINTIFF
vs.
ENRICO T. HARRELL, UNKNOWN SPOUSE
OF ENRICO T. HARRELL; STANLEY HARRELL, JR.;
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF STANLEY HARRELL, JR.;
DR. STUART BALDWIN, DMD;
CITY OF PROVIDENCE, KENTUCKY;
AND COUNTY OF WEBSTER, KENTUCKY DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE.

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Webster Circuit Court on the 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025, I will on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026**, at the hour of **11:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Dixon, Webster County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Webster County, Kentucky, to-wit:

**Property Address: 300 McElroy Drive, Providence, Webster County, Kentucky 42450
PVA No. / Map No.: PR2-001-003-002.**

The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.

Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 27th day of January 2026.
STEPHEN M. ARNETT, Master Commissioner
2/25c