



HENRY COUNTY AND EMINENCE CLASS OF 2024

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New Castle historic building future hungs in the balance

BY ROBB HOFF

Last week, the New Castle City Commission heard from city and Henry County residents about the future of the vacant former A-1 Service Center commercial building at 10 Court Street in the New Castle Historic District.

Building owner Matthew Morrison stated his plans for the building, which include a grocery market, coffee shop and delicatessen in one part

and “Eva’s” in another part.

“That is going to be a restaurant area that is more upscale — as upscale as I can make it,” he said of Eva’s, whose namesake is his grandmother from New Castle.

Morrison acknowledged that it is “going to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars” to repurpose the historic building into a thriving community business, but he also said that he and his wife Hannah are committed to

the “life project” that the rescue of the building represents.

“It really takes away the eyecore it has been for decades,” he said of the project.

Morrison appeared before the commission to voice his dissatisfaction with a recent New Castle Historic Preservation Board denial of his request for four of six awnings planned for the project.

SEE BUILDING/PAGE A3



Artistic rendering of the Court Street Market proposed for the historic building at 10 Court St. in New Castle. (Held by former New Castle mayor Mark Vaughn)

Robb Hoff

Northern Lights in Henry County



William Reddick

The Northern Lights phenomenon vividly displayed in Henry County over the weekend as shown in this unfiltered photo taken by William Reddick on his iPhone 14 from his Campbellsborg Road driveway. “I got my kids out of bed to make sure they could see this, and it did not disappoint,” he said of the rare occurrence, which is attributed to a solar geomagnetic storm. Many Henry County residents snapped photos of the display, which are posted on the Henry County Local Facebook page.

Voter registration swells ahead of May primary election

BY STAFF REPORT

Kentucky Secretary of State Michael Adams announced that voter registration continued to grow ahead of the May primary with 8,306 new voters registering April 1 through the April 22 pre-primary registration deadline.

“It’s time for Kentuckians to have their say for President and other important offices,” said Adams. “It remains easy to vote and hard to cheat in the Commonwealth.”

In April, 4,593 voters were removed — 3,349 deceased voters, 562 voters who moved out

of state, 543 convicted felons, 59 duplicate registrations, 48 voters who voluntarily de-registered and 32 voters adjudged mentally incompetent.

Republican registrants constitute 46% of the electorate, with 1,615,451 voters. Republican

registration rose by 2,684 voters, a .17% increase. Democratic registrants make up 43% of the electorate, with 1,511,242 voters. Democratic registration dropped by 716 voters, a .05% decrease. There are

SEE VOTER/PAGE A5



Abby Hooven

Harlem Wizards player “Glitch” poses for a photo with a fan during a pregame autograph session at Henry County High School on May 7.

Harlem Wizards bring hoops tricks to Henry County

BY ABBY HOOVEN

The world-famous Harlem Wizards put their “trick hoops and alley-ops” style of play on display for hundreds of spectators at Henry County High School on May 7.

For the second straight year, the Wizards faced off against the Henry County Hoopers, a team comprised of teachers, staff and administrators from Henry County Public Schools.

The action-packed evening of hoops entertainment was a fundraiser for Henry County’s Class of 2025. Each pre-purchased ticket sold earned \$3 to a designated school of the buyer’s choice, and all tickets sold at the door benefit the Class of 2025, junior class sponsor Becky Wright said.

“The Harlem Wizards fundraiser is a win-win; it’s

a great community event and has wonderful fundraising potential,” said Wright. “The money earned from the Wizards fundraiser helps to make prom tickets and senior field trip tickets affordable for everyone, and it gives us starting cash for Project Graduation. We like to try to make Project Graduation as big as well by offering games, food, activities and prices, and all of that requires quite a bit of fundraising for each class.”

According to the official Harlem Wizards website, the group was founded by Howie Davis in 1962 with the goal of merging sports and entertainment to “create a better show than the Harlem Globetrotters.”

Over 60 years later, the Wizards travel across the country for fundraising

SEE WIZARDS/PAGE A6

INDEX

OPINION A4 FISCAL COURT A2
PUZZLE A4 CLASSIFIEDS A9
DEED RECORDS A5 SPORTS A7-8, A10

INSIDE

CAMPBELLSBURG DAY IS COMING! PAGE A6

OBITUARIES

Keith Lee Dixon, 86 PAGE A3



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Campbellsburg Day returns



Robb Hoff

Campbellsburg Day returns for a third straight year this Saturday, May 18 with a parade, petting zoo, bounce houses, live music throughout the day, food trucks and vendors. The event starts downtown at 10 a.m.

WIZARDS

FROM PAGE A1

events at schools and various non-profits. The group has visited nearly all 50 states, as well as several countries around the world.

Different ticket packages offered an array of experiences for those in attendance. One package allowed kids to warm up with the Wizards before the game, engage in a meet-and-greet session, take part in a 3-minute basketball game at halftime and receive a Harlem Wizards "Wiz Kid" jersey.

The Wizards also signed autographs for the kids before the game, at halftime and immediately following the game.

On Tuesday night, the Wizards were comprised of six players from three different "units" within the organization.

Four players represented the Broadway unit, including Lloyd Clinton aka "Loonatik," Devon Curry aka "Live-wire," Arnold Bernard aka "A-Train" and Eric Jones aka "Broadway."

Kamil Brown aka "Dragon" represented the King Arthur Unit and Bakari Copeland aka "Glitch" represented the Road Runner Unit.

The voice of the Wizards was Jamel Thompson.

The Henry County Hoopers, coached by Brandon Finnell, featured about 16 teachers, staff members and administrators from each of the five schools in the district, including Henry County girls basketball coach Landon New.

"This is my second time participating in the event and I'm always excited to be able to. It's always a good event to bring the community together for a different form of entertainment and something the kids always get excited for," said New.

As the game began, the Hoopers put the first points on the board with a layup from Tyler Gray. The Wizards easily responded with a monster dunk, but the Hoopers broke the tie with a 3-pointer from Dr. Jim Masters.

Every few minutes, the Hoopers rotated a new set of five players into action. One Hooper stepped in and took a hard foul from Broadway in the first quarter, prompting two Wizards to carry him to halfcourt to ensure he was alright.

After play resumed, the Wizards selected one kid from the crowd to take a shot for the Hoopers. If the kid made the shot, the Hoopers would get 10 points.

Six-year-old Liam was chosen, and with the help of several Wizards, was hoisted in the air for a dunk to give the Hoopers their 10 additional points on the scoreboard.

With the score boost, Henry County led 27-20 going into the second quarter. The hilarious theatrics on and off the court kept fans engaged throughout the night. At one point, the Wizards lined up at halfcourt for a pretend football game and eventually tossed a football into the crowd. In another instance, one Wizard carried a kid from the crowd onto the court and ran around with him in his arms before returning him safely to the bleachers.

At the end of the night, the Wizards



Abby Hooven

Henry County assistant superintendent Chelsey Tingle looks for an open shot against the Harlem Wizards' defense.



Abby Hooven

Dragon and Glitch lift six-year-old Liam to the basket for a dunk. His basket gave the Hoopers 10 additional points on the scoreboard.

brought every kid across all grade levels onto the court for a big dance party.

"As a basketball coach, you always like to see kids being engaged and having fun with it at those young ages," said New. "From an education standpoint, students being able to see their teachers in different environments and connected to a fun event like that has a lot of value as well."

Despite the antics, the Hoopers kept the lead and went into halftime with a 39-36 advantage.

A minute into the third quarter, the Wizards stopped play, evened the score and swapped players with the Hoopers. Henry County's squad took Livewire and Glitch, while the Wizards selected Dr. Masters and Tristan Whalen.

After the trade, the Hoopers caught fire from 3-point range to create some separation from the Wizards.

Yet, the Wizards stormed back with great play on both ends of the floor and took the lead late in the fourth quarter.

The Hoopers kept the game close, but the Wizards ultimately prevailed 77-72.

Eminence robot gladiator team runner-up at 2024 state championship

BY DAYOU CHOI
EMINENCE STUDENT INTERN

The interscholastic Robot Gladiator League's first-ever tournament season held its grand finale Championship Battle at Morehead State University on April 30. The event featured eight different schools from Kentucky, with Eminence High School's very own team competing as one of the first teams to be a part of the league.

Each team was provided three base robots designed by the founders of the league and given months in preparation to design weapon systems. Student teams are given the opportunity to use ramp wedges, spinners, pneumatic systems, and have almost complete engineering freedom within safety and battle regulations. The battles are played in three-minute halves, with a 10 minute halftime. Three bowling pins are set at opposite ends of the battle arena, where robots fight to knock down the most pins in exchange for scoring points.

Representing Eminence High School at the State Championship was coach Sherry Curtsinger and the following students: Jackson Curtsinger, Gus Curtsinger, DaYoung Choi, DaYou Choi, SungHyun Choi, Truman Gilbert, Harrison Gilbert, Anthony Wayman and Beau White.

The Eminence team showcased a ramp robot designed for flipping opponent bots and two dual-pronged spear robots designed for offensively scoring points.

As a sixth-seed ranked team based on results from previous matches this season, Eminence first battled Jackson Independent and won a hard-fought victory. This was Eminence's first battle win during the league season and it advanced them to the semifinal round.

Following the first rounds of tournament battle, the following



Submitted

The 2024 Eminence High School Robot Gladiator League Team finished runner-up in the state championship held last month at Morehead State.

teams advanced to the semifinals: Eminence, Russell County, Nelson County and West Carter High School.

Eminence battled West Carter in the semifinal round, winning a close victory after a fierce battle fighting for advancement to the championship round. Eminence was ahead by 13 points, with the final score at 81-68.

Team member and driver for the ramp robot, Truman Gilbert, had this to say: "Advancing to the final round was an amazing experience and I was able to learn a lot. By playing multiple matches in the same day, I think I was able to better adapt to the robot and how it moves."

At the final battle for the Robot Gladiator League State Championship, top seed Nelson County and Eminence were set to battle. By gaining a quick lead of just two points, Nelson County had the advantage at the start. Eminence overtook the lead about halfway through the battle and set a close distance ahead in points.

With less than 30 seconds left in the last half of the match, Nelson County scored the last few points. The exciting final battle for the first Robot Gladiator League State Championship resulted in Eminence's loss to Nelson County at 49-45.

Eminence was named 2024 Robot Gladiator League State Runners-Up. The team was awarded the People's Choice Award for crowd favorite robot designs and the Rotational Excellence Award to Jackson

Curtsinger and DaYou Choi for building one of the league's first spinner robots.

Jackson Curtsinger, Eminence senior and student at the Craft Academy, said this about the team's success: "We went from zero earned wins in the regular season, to second overall in the League."

Excellent teamwork and engineering talent from the Eminence team was proudly showcased during the championship, where team members quickly worked together in addressing broken robot weapons, technical struggles and driving strategy.

Beau White, Eminence senior, shared this about his first year on the team: "There were so many great and awesome things that happened at our championship match that allowed us to make it to the final match and only fall short by four points. Not bad for a sixth seed!"

Eminence's successful season reaped impressive awards and taught students valuable skills to prepare for next year's season.

Gus Curtsinger commented about this year's tournament: "I learned how to overcome adversity and learn from my mistakes. And because of the competitions, I have grown a lot closer to my teammates. The Robot Gladiator season has made a lasting impact on me, and I will remember it for the rest of my life."

The Robot Gladiator League is projected to have more teams join the league as additions to the tournament season, and Eminence is geared up for another excellent year.

Harlem Wizards bring hoops tricks to Henry County



A "Wiz Kid" runs through a tunnel of Henry County Hoopers before Tuesday's Harlem Wizards game.

Abby Hooven

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