

Local students picked for Gatton Academy

From New Era staff and wire reports

Apr 17, 2020

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The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky has selected 102 Kentucky sophomores for the Class of 2022, including two students from Christian and Todd counties.

Chetas Chavda of Hopkinsville High School and son of Sanjay Chavda from Hopkinsville was selected along with Owen Craig of Todd County Central High School. Owen is the son of Sarah Craig and Ryan and Jenni Craig from Elkton.

Applicants were evaluated based on ACT/SAT scores, high school grades, awards, extracurricular activities, responses to essay and short answer questions, and letters of recommendation. In addition to these criteria, earlier this month, 189 candidates were invited to interview with WKU faculty members, community leaders from across the Commonwealth, and Gatton Academy alumni.

The selected students scored an average composite of 30.58 on the ACT and 30.23 on the mathematics portion of the exam. The highest possible score is a 36.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield donates to local schools

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Kentucky Medicaid donated \$500 to two family resource and youth services centers in Christian County Public Schools. Hope FRYSC at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School and Blend FYRSC at Freedom Elementary are among 100 FRYSCs across the state to receive the donations.

These funds are used to help provide essential items for families in need such as food, hygiene items, rent assistance, utility assistance, supplies and activities that support learning while children are home from school during the COVID-19 response, the release states.

Melanie Barret, director of Pupil Personnel said, “We are grateful to Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Kentucky Medicaid for their contributions to Kentucky’s students and families. The FRYSC Centers in our district represent what’s right in education.”

The director of Hope FRYSC is Ron Gager while Chris Dudley is the director at Blend FRYSC.

Sheriff: Lawmaker drove intoxicated after Kentucky session

A Kentucky state representative was arrested early Thursday on accusations of driving while intoxicated only hours after the state House had adjourned, authorities said.

State Rep. Derek J. Lewis of London was charged with drunken driving, The Lexington Herald-Leader reported.

Laurel County Sheriff’s officer Gary Mehler said he responded to a call and came upon a pickup truck in a ditch resting against a fence. Lewis got out and was “extremely unsteady,” had slurred speech, glossy eyes and smelled of alcohol, Mehler said in an arrest citation.

Lewis refused to take a field sobriety test and became belligerent, Mehler added.

Lewis was arrested shortly after 1:30 a.m. in London, about 100 miles (165 kilometres) from Frankfort, where the House adjourned late Wednesday night about two hours earlier. The lawmaker was subsequently hospitalized and continued to refuse sobriety tests, according to authorities.

Lewis’ attorneys at Croley Foley & Cessna said Lewis’ vehicle struck a ditch after he had been working all day in Frankfort. The first-term lawmaker will plead not guilty to the charge, his attorneys said.

A spokeswoman for the Kentucky House of Representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Department of Fish and Wildlife cancels 2020 conservation camps

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will not offer its summer conservation camps this year due to the novel coronavirus 2019.

This decision was made in conjunction with the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet as part of the commonwealth's ongoing efforts to ensure the health and wellness of the public as Kentucky fights aggressively to stop the spread of COVID-19.

3 hunger relief charities to benefit from \$500,000 donation

Three hunger-relief charities will benefit from a \$500,000 donation by the Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. and Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Foundation in response to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

The donation is the largest single private donation made as part of Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles' Kentucky Hunger Initiative launched in 2016, the Kentucky Agriculture Department said in a news release.

"The coronavirus pandemic is impacting people of every socioeconomic status, but we know those who were already living in food-insecure conditions are at an even greater risk right now," Farm Bureau President Mark Haney said in the release.

The foundation raised \$125,000 for the Clays for a Cause fundraiser, and the organization tripled that amount with resources from Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance for a total donation of \$500,000. The funds will go to Feeding Kentucky, Glean Kentucky and Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry, the release said.

"This donation, in this time, demonstrates how Kentucky agriculture is not only committed to growing food and fiber during a pandemic, but also to marshalling funds to feed vulnerable Kentuckians affected by it," Quarles said.

The company's annual Clays for a Cause fundraiser was originally scheduled for next Wednesday and Thursday. Last year's sporting clays event drew 191 participants at Elk Creek Hunt Club in Owenton. The 2020 event will be rescheduled.

