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INSIDE:

What’s coming up at Fort Scott Community College? See page 4 to find out.

INSIDE:

The Uniontown Summer Ball Association received a \$1,000 donation. See page 5.

SPORTS:

See page 9 to find out how the Fort Scott High School Tiger baseball and softball teams have fared in recent action.

An egg surprise



Tammy Helm/Tribune photo

**Hudley Duncan, 18 months old, of Fort Scott looks at the egg that popped open after he picked it up during the annual Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday, April 12, at Gunn Park. There were 1,500 eggs hidden for children in three age groups: preschool; kindergarten, first and second grade; and third, fourth and fifth grade.**

Assistant superintendent hired at USD 234

BY JASON E. SILVERS  
The Fort Scott Tribune

The USD 234 Board of Education on Monday approved the hiring of a new assistant superintendent.

Following an executive session, the board approved a personnel report which included a certified recommendation to hire current Fort Scott Middle School Principal Zach Johnson as assistant superintendent. The board also approved Johnson’s resignation as middle school principal.

USD 234 Superintendent Destry Brown told the Tribune Tuesday the hiring was the completion of a process in which the position was posted internally, and the board interviewed two candidates – Johnson and Fort Scott High School Principal Scott Kimble.

“The board and I are all on the same page where we really liked the direction the district is going,” Brown said. “I told them after next year I am retiring. We have

a couple of administrators in the district we feel like are capable and have the potential to be good superintendents.”

Brown said Kimble and Johnson were interviewed in late March and the board elected to offer the position to Johnson.

“Both of them did very well in talking to the board about what they’d like to see happen to continue the road we’re on,” Brown said.

Brown said Johnson will work alongside him during the 2025-26 school year in preparation for taking over for Brown the following year.

“Then I’ll start fading into the sunset after that,” Brown said. “I think the board is glad there will be somebody to work alongside me for a year to get to know the district.”

The assistant superintendent position will be for one year, Brown said.

“It’s an assistant superintendent of teaching and learning,” he said.

Johnson will start in the role in July. The middle school principal position

will be posted internally and externally, Brown said.

“Staff at the middle school will be involved and have input into that process for their next principal,” he said.

Brown said he plans to submit his resignation in November or December, at which time the board will make a decision regarding who will be superintendent the following year.

Terry Mayfield, the current assistant superintendent, currently oversees all of the district’s business and operations. Mayfield will continue to oversee the district’s finances and other departments, Brown said.

“His degree is in administration,” Brown said. “He became an assistant superintendent in a position over business and operations.”

Brown said Mayfield will be a “good help” to Johnson, as will Special Education Director Tonya Barnes, who has experience as a superintendent.

“When I’m gone, Terry will still be there to support him,” Brown said.

The previous assistant

superintendent, Dalaina Smith, left the district in late 2024. Brown said he took over most of Smith’s duties, which included managing all testing and curriculum instruction.

“He (Johnson) will take over those roles along with learning some others alongside me,” Brown said. “Terry will continue over finance and he also oversees maintenance, food service, technology and transportation.”

Brown said he will oversee all building principals and “everything that happens within the schools.” He said Johnson will learn about the duties of the superintendent, who “wears a lot of different hats,” and “get to know the depth of the job.”

Johnson, who is in his third year at the middle school, came to the district from Coffeyville, where he served as a high school assistant principal, Brown said.

More on the meeting will appear in a future edition.

City commission approves purchase of truck for fire department

BY JASON E. SILVERS  
The Fort Scott Tribune

The Fort Scott City Commission on Tuesday voted to move forward with the purchase of a rescue fire truck and will wait to obtain more information before proceeding with the purchase of a

pumper truck for the Fort Scott Fire Department.

Fort Scott Fire Chief Dave Bruner requested commissioners approve accepting bids to approve the purchase of a rescue truck listed on the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan, as well as bids for the purchase of a pumper truck on the 2026 Capital Improve-

ment Plan.

The department seeks to replace a 2014 rescue truck and a 1997 E-One fire truck, according to city documents.

Bruner said he previously spoke to the commission on Nov. 19 regarding the need to replace aging fire apparatus within the department’s fleet. Bruner outlined the

“operational challenges” the department faces, as well as the need for “modern, reliable” equipment.

The department assembled a committee of personnel to research available options and develop specifications for the needed equipment. The committee recently completed its evaluation of equipment, ven-

dors and pricing, which were obtained through cooperative purchasing programs, including HGACBuy and Sourcewell, in accordance with city procurement policies, Bruner said.

In November, Bruner discussed the 1997 truck and explained the present condition of the fleet, the needs of the department and

the current situation occurring nationally for repair or replacement of vehicles. Bruner asked to begin working on the bid process in 2025 to “hopefully receive in 2026,” according to minutes of the Nov. 19 commission meeting.

SEE TRUCK ON PAGE 6

Zoning Advisory Committee chosen

BY JASON E. SILVERS  
The Fort Scott Tribune

Bourbon County Commissioners on Monday chose individuals to serve on a zoning advisory committee, which will consist of nine members.

Those chosen are Brian Wade, Christine Farbo, Brian Ashworth II, James Banwart, Mary Pemberton, Jason Yount, Amanda Spicer, Pete Owenby and Mike Hueston.

Most of the interested applicants are from the current First District.

After Commission Chairman Brandon Whisenhunt read the names of the 17 people who submitted letters of interest to serve on the board, Whisenhunt and Commissioner David Beerbower discussed the board’s proposed bylaws.

Beerbower said the pro-

posed bylaws for the committee state “The committee shall consist of one commissioner and one representative from each of the newly-formed five commission districts. In lieu of representation from each district, the committee shall consist of five members selected from letters submitted. The commission can increase the number of members of the committee, not to exceed seven members.”

The commission accepted letters through Monday.

After Bourbon County Deputy Clerk Jennifer Hawkins pointed out they had chosen nine people, commissioners then discussed changing the bylaws for the committee before approving a nine-member board.

“We didn’t adopt the bylaws, so we can move it to nine (members)” Whisenhunt said.

“Let’s go with nine since

we picked nine,” Beerbower said, adding he would have chosen “all 17. I’m glad to see that many people want to be involved in this.”

Both commissioners approved Whisenhunt’s motion to appoint the nine individuals to the board.

Whisenhunt said the only rule that will change in the bylaws is the number of board members.

“The committee will adopt their own bylaws,” Beerbower said.

Whisenhunt said he would have County Clerk Susan Walker email the members of the board to notify them of their selection.

County Counselor Bob Johnson asked commissioners how the bylaws would be implemented. Beerbower said the committee will adopt the bylaws after a chairperson is chosen.

SEE ZONING ON PAGE 10

City, county projects highlighted during Community Connection

BY JASON E. SILVERS  
The Fort Scott Tribune

City and county leaders provided updates on projects and plans during a Community Connection Panel Luncheon April 9 at the Empress Event Center.

**City streets**

Fort Scott City Manager Brad Matkin said city street crews have begun working on parking lots and sidewalks in the downtown area, including a lot south of Holmtown Pub and another lot near First Street and National Avenue. He said the process will take about a month.

“They will redo the parking lot plus all the sidewalks, then go into the alleyway between Main and National. It’s really rough,”

he said. “They will pour concrete there and also put the bricks back as the city commission wanted us to.”

Crews are also busy painting lines and crosswalks downtown to improve appearance and safety. He said the city’s painting/stripping machine will be used to paint street lines once the weather “turns consistently warm.”

Matkin said the subcontractor for the Horton Street project planned to wait until this week for “consistently warmer weather” to add coating onto the street, followed by striping.

“They cannot put lines on streets for two weeks after the coating is added,” he said.

Heck & Wicker will return to complete backfilling in several areas that need additional dirt as

well as concrete. The work should be completed within a month, Matkin said.

Matkin said the company that completed cape seal on city roads last year has been asked to return as the work was “not done satisfactorily.”

“We have not paid them,” he said. “They changed construction companies so they will be back around May to redo all the streets that were cape sealed in the program.”

Matkin said the city water department was busy last week dealing with four water leaks, including one involving a break in an 8-inch main on Eddy Street between Eighth and Ninth streets. He said there have been three leaks in that area the last two years.

SEE COMMUNITY CONNECTION ON PAGE 6

WEATHER

A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly before 4pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. Wind chill values as low as 39 early. South wind 7 to 12 mph increasing to 13 to 18 mph in the afternoon.

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TODAY'S INDEX

Business .....5

Calendar.....3

Classifieds .....8

Comics .....7

Legals .....8

Obituaries .....2

Records.....2

Sports .....9

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