

## Chamber of Commerce Holds Annual Meeting

The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce met last night for its Annual Meeting at Opal's Restaurant in Annville. There were 12 attendees representing 21 member organizations, Chamber President and Executive Director, Michael Stidham, reported the Jackson County Chamber has 47 members with 2 members joining for 2019. Invoices will go out in early December for the remaining members and Mr. Stidham expressed his sincere wishes that these members continue support our Chamber so that we can expand our reach and assistance to the business community in our county.

Mr. Stidham went on to report that the Chamber is in a strong financial position much to the credit of Benefactor level members Jackson Energy, Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative, and Appalachian Wireless as well as the strong support of all the regular members.

The chamber website, jackchamber.org, has been updated with the latest information for the Jackson County Veterans Memorial which can be found at jackchamber.org/jcvm.html. Additionally, a copy of the 1995 Jackson County Strategic Plan and the 2002 update has been added to the website. There are a number of additional items on this website such as a listing of members and their contact information, a community calendar, and additional information about the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Stidham reported that the Board has recently decided to expand the size of the Board from 3 to 5 members to incorporate more local business owners into leadership roles. With that, the business portion of the Annual Meeting was concluded and the meeting then turned to Robert Donnan, with the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky and Shane Gabbard, Jackson County Judge Executive.

Mr. Donnan, discussed a recent POWER Grant that was awarded to fund programs to promote new business development as well as expansion of existing businesses. The POWER Grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) includes five counties in Eastern Kentucky of which Jackson County is included. The grant funds have been utilized to conduct several training sessions to assist both new and current entrepreneurs in preparing and implementing a Business Plan. There are two workshops scheduled that will focus on the rapidly expanding Bed & Breakfast industry in Jackson County. The workshops, sponsored by Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED), are scheduled for Sunday November 4 and Sunday November 11, 2-5pm in The Old Court House in McKee. To register for this event you may visit [tinyurl.com/how-2airbnb-Jackson](http://tinyurl.com/how-2airbnb-Jackson) or call Kathy Spurlock at (606) 438-8682.

Judge Gabbard discussed recent developments relating to economic development as well as mentioning forthcoming events. Recent developments include the acquisition and cleanup of the old MidSouth plant property by the McKee/Jackson County Industrial Authority (IDA), possible expansion of the Senture call Center, as well as the prospect of a manufacturing facility locating in McKee. Judge Gabbard also announced a Visit forthcoming by the Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Jenean Hampton, Saturday November 10, 5:00pm at the Jackson County Area Technology Center. The event, Honoring our heroic Veterans, will be a night of gospel music. Concessions will be available and all are encouraged to attend to show support for our Veterans.

After 90 minutes of fruitful discussion, Larry Lakes and Elizabeth Stidham praised Judy Schmitt for her tremendous contributions to our community. With that our meeting concluded.

We encourage all local business to help support the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce to help bring resources to our business community.

### Dear Editor: County Committees are Vital to USDA – Vote Today!

A message from Brian Lacefield,

State Executive Director, Kentucky Farm Service Agency

Farmers and Ranchers,

It's that time of year again. The 2018 Farm Service Agency's (FSA) county committee elections are officially underway and we're asking for your help. Please take a few minutes to vote in your local county committee election. FSA county committees are a vital and direct link between our farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Earlier this summer, we put out a call for nominations for individuals who would be willing to serve on the committee. Elections are held annually in every county when FSA accepts nominations for a certain Local Administrative Area (LAA). The area up for election rotates each year. Nominations have been made and now it's time for you to decide who will fill this role.

Ballots were mailed out the week of Nov. 5 to eligible voters. If your LAA had a committee seat open this year, and you are an eligible voter, you can expect to receive a ballot in the mail. Producers who did not receive a ballot can pick one up at the local FSA office.

The individuals you elect to serve on your behalf operate within official federal regulations so that local input is provided on federal programs such as:

- Income safety-net loans and payments, including setting county average yields for commodities;
- Conservation programs;
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities;
- Emergency programs, and
- Payment eligibility.

Our FSA county committees make a difference and if you won't take it from me, I encourage you to check out stories from county committee members from around the nation. Read their testimonials at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). While you're there, you can find other information about the elections.

Ballots must be returned to your local FSA office by Dec. 3, 2018. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 3.

### Traffic shift to occur on Interstate 75 in Rockcastle County this weekend

SOMERSET, Ky. (Oct. 30, 2018) – Construction is progressing on the widening of Interstate 75 in Rockcastle County and with that comes traffic shifts.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) advises motorists that starting this Saturday night, Nov. 3, southbound I-75 only traffic will be shifted from the current driving lanes onto the two inside lanes between mile points 64.5 to 59.

## PRTC Offers Free Installation, Discount on Internet Service for Teleworks USA Clients

Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative (PRTC) is now offering incentives to Teleworks USA clients in Jackson and Owsley counties who successfully land a remote job.

The premier internet service provider in Jackson and Owsley counties, PRTC has remained a close community partner with Teleworks USA since 2015 when the cooperative agreed to provide high-speed broadband service to Teleworks USA's Annville Teleworks Hub, and subsequently to the Booneville Teleworks Hub two years later. Thanks to this ongoing collaboration, and support from additional partners, Teleworks USA has been able to help connect more than 750 people with new teleworks jobs in Jackson and Owsley counties since 2015.

Effective Oct. 1, PRTC is now offering free installation and a \$50 credit on the first three months of internet service to Teleworks USA clients who have completed a Teleworks USA workshop at the Annville or Booneville Hub, landed a new remote job, and are also new broadband PRTC customers.

"PRTC has been an excellent community partner since we first opened the Annville Teleworks Hub," said Betty Hays, operations manager for Teleworks USA. "We were excited to hear that PRTC is adding to that partnership and is now offering a substantial discount for internet service to Teleworks USA clients in their service area. This new discount from PRTC is very helpful for new teleworkers as they establish a home office and begin working remotely."

PRTC operates a gigabit capable network in Jackson and Owsley counties, delivering some of the fastest internet speeds in the nation. CEO Keith Gabbard said high-speed broadband is an economic development tool, and providing internet service to the local Teleworks Hubs and assisting successful clients with obtaining affordable internet service can only help build a better community.

"Reliable internet service is not only a convenience, but for remote workers it's a requirement to maintain a good job," Gabbard said. "Anytime we can help people get more jobs and help them get started with broadband service, that's something we're perfectly happy to do."

A division of the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP), Inc., Teleworks USA identifies and develops legitimate remote-work job opportunities with multiple national and global companies. The agency operates Teleworks Hubs in eight Eastern Kentucky counties, which provide on-site services, customized prep workshops, and telework job-placement opportunities to prospective teleworkers.

If you're interested in landing a legitimate work-from-home job, or if you want to know more about how Teleworks USA assists prospective teleworkers, visit [www.teleworkusa.com](http://www.teleworkusa.com) or call the Annville or Booneville Teleworks Hub at 606-364-2831 or 606-438-5399 respectively.

EKCEP, a nonprofit workforce development agency headquartered in Hazard, Ky., serves the citizens of 23 Appalachian coalfield counties. The agency provides an array of workforce development services, administers the Hiring Our Miners Everyday (H.O.M.E.) program for dislocated coal miners and their spouses, and is the White House-designated lead organization for the federal TechHire designation for Eastern Kentucky.

### JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

3331 Highway 421 South McKee, Kentucky 40447  
Phone: 606-287-7181 Fax: 606-287-8469

**DATE ADVERTISED: OCTOBER 24TH, 2018**  
**CLOSING TIME OF BID: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2018**  
**10:00 A.M., Local Time**

THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WILL BE ACCEPTING SEALED PROPOSALS UNTIL  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2018 FOR:  
KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

ALL PROPOSALS ARE TO BE SEALED AND RECEIVED  
AT THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2018, 10:00 A.M., Local Time

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING BID  
SPECIFICATIONS, CALL OR WRITE:  
STEPHEN GABBARD, DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND  
GROUNDS, AT JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 3331 HWY. 421  
SOUTH, MCKEE, KENTUCKY 40447, TELEPHONE (606) 287-7181.

The Board reserves final approval of sale and also reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

#### USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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