

@ The Library

The Younger Side @ the Library Be A Book Cook Class

The "Be A Book Cook" program is open to any child in Fleming County who is between the ages of 3-5 years old. Each child will participate with hands on cooking activities using the theme book of the night. Literacy, Math and Science skills are also enriched during these classes. This class will teach about the importance of hand washing before cooking or eating. The first 10 families who sign-up and attend will receive a copy of the featured book. Families may call to sign up the first of each month (Jan 2nd the first month) to get added to the list, additional families will be put on a wait list.

You may contact Kathy Davenport or Charlotte Wagner at 845-7851 or email kdavenport@fleminglibrary.org.

"Be A Book Cook" Activities Schedule:

February 21st "Pete the Cat: Three Bite Rule" @ 6pm

March 21st "Green Eggs & Ham" @ 6pm

April 18th "Pizza Day" @ 6pm

May 16th "Tops & Bottoms" @ 6pm

Please, please... Call ahead to register your child, each monthly signup date begins on the 1st of the month. No signups for next month allowed, the first 10 signups, get the book!

Be A Book Cook is funded by Fleming County Public Library and through The Fleming County Early Childhood Council and the Fleming County Public Library. Be A Book Cook Program is hosted by Kathy Davenport, Fleming Co. Public Library Youth Services and assisted by Charlotte Wagner.

Drop Your Drawers A Huge Success

Our third annual Drop Your Drawer campaign was a huge success with the Fleming County Public Library receiving 307 pairs of underwear and 317 pair of socks. These were items that cleared peoples fines or were just donated. These donations go to the Fleming County schools resource rooms to be distributed to any child that may have a need.

The Drop Your Drawer campaign was originated by the Campbell County Public Library in northern Kentucky. Director, JC Morgan has requested the rights to the book character Captain Underpants each year from author, DavPilkey.

This year over 50 libraries in Kentucky ran the campaign from November 1st through December 31st and received 35,221 pairs of underwear (this includes socks). All libraries are distributing them you're their school systems as well.

Thank you to each person that made a donation or "paid" off their fine in underwear.

Each legislative session may be different, but nearly all share a common trait: They spend a considerable amount of time focused on education.

This year's meeting of the General Assembly is certainly no different, with nearly a fifth of all bills filed so far falling into this category. Many more will almost certainly be added when my fellow legislators and I return to the Capitol on Feb. 5th.

Two bills expected to draw significant support this year are House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1, which are identical school-safety measures. It's rare if not unprecedented for each chamber to designate the same bill as its top priority, but that just further underscores this issue's importance.

This legislation is largely built on the work of a bipartisan group of legislators and stakeholders who met for much of last year. Legislative leaders brought them together following the tragic Marshall County High School shooting that claimed the lives of two students and injured more than a dozen others last January 23rd.

In short, the legislation's goal is to increase the number of school resource officers, mental-health professionals and school-safety coordinators within our school districts and to improve school-safety training and assessment across the state.

These bills are just starting their legislative journey, but two others are already halfway to the governor's desk

after clearing the Senate in just four days. Unfortunately, there are serious concerns with both of these proposals. Senate Bill 3 seeks to weaken our school-based decision making councils (SBDM) by giving superintendents the councils' authority to hire principals.

This undermines local control and represents a fix where no solution is needed. These councils have worked exceptionally well over the years and should not see their influence diminished. If anything, we should allow them to grow by adding a seat for classified staff.

Should Senate Bill 8 become law, meanwhile, teachers who are fired would see a change in the tribunal system that handles their appeals. Many worry this would undermine due process and make firings less objective.

Another major education bill expected to be filed this legislative session would create a funding source for charter schools, which were authorized in 2017 but are in limbo until state financing is established.

At a time when the state can only afford about a dime extra per day for each student – and not even a single dime more for new textbooks or teacher training – we cannot afford to remove any money from our public schools. I believe we need to end this charter-school experiment even before it gets a chance to begin.

If those last few bills take public education in the wrong direction, two others I support would put our children on a much better path. House Bills 112 and 113 would have Kentucky provide all-day kindergarten and preschool for every four- and five-year-old child.

Kentucky already covers half-days for kindergarten, but most school districts pay the other half-day themselves at a cost that approaches \$170 million. As for preschool, Kentucky also covers half-days for young children who meet income or disability requirements. Less than half of school districts extend that to full-day, however.

Budgetary matters are generally not considered during odd-year legislative sessions, but I think we need to make an exception this year for our youngest children. With many eligible preschool children staying at home, and with half of all kindergarten-aged children not fully ready when school starts, we must re-dedicate ourselves to early childhood development and not wait another 12 months. This investment will more than pay for itself in the years ahead and give our youngest generation a stronger academic foundation.

Outside of the legislative process, but still important to our children, Kentucky got a dose of good news earlier this month when state officials announced the opening of nearly 30 family resource youth services centers. That brings their total number to more than 850.

FRYSCs are an integral front-line player in our schools, because they help students with non-classroom needs like clothing, food, tutoring and health services. There is no telling how many children have succeeded in the classroom because of these centers' help, and those running and supporting them have truly earned our appreciation.

As I mentioned, the General Assembly will return on Tuesday, Feb. 5th, to complete the remaining 26 working

days of this year's legislative session.

I've heard from many of you, but would love to hear from many more, because your input is critical to the legislative process.

You can always email me at John.Sims@lrc.ky.gov, and the toll-free message line – which is open during normal business hours – is 1-800-372-7181. For those with a hearing impairment, the number is 1-800-896-0305.

The General Assembly's website has a lot of information, too. It can be found online at www.lrc.ky.gov.



Fleming County 4-H Livestock Skill-a-thon Meetings

All practice meetings are held at the Fleming County Extension Office (FCEO) and the Invitational and State Contest are located as noted in the schedule below:

Schedule:

January 24th- 4pm-5pm, 4-H Livestock Skill-a-thon Practice at FC Extension Office

January 26th- 9am-12pm, 4-H Livestock Skill-a-thon Practice at FC Extension Office

January 31st- 4pm-5pm, 4-H Skillathon Practice at FC Extension Office

February 2nd- 8am-12pm, Fleming County Skill-a-thon Invitational at Simons Middle School

February 16th- State 4-H Skill-a-thon Contest at Bowling Green, KY

Panthers' Bistro

FCFS Culinary Class
January 31, 2019
Check or Cash Only

Entree \$5
Chips and Salsa, **Beef Taco Bar**, Mexican Rice, Refried Beans w/cheese

Desserts: Fried Ice Cream Churros

Water or Ice Tea

Carry Out Available or Seating Time: 11:00 & 11:30

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Fleming County author James Colgan will Present his latest play, Avoidance



Fleming County author James Colgan will present his latest play, Avoidance, at the Rowan County Arts Center in Morehead on January 25, 26, and 27, 2019.

Avoidance is a two act docu-drama about the opioid epidemic that is raging across the nation. Colgan's play, written with his wife, Mary Beth Mayhall, looks at the epidemic from different perspectives: that of the medical profession trying to treat it; that of local governments and law enforcement trying to adapt to it; that of those who have lost loved ones to the epidemic; and those who are suffering most from it, the addicts themselves.

"In the Spring of 2017," Colgan says, "I was vaguely aware that there was an opioid epidemic going on, but I really had no idea how serious it was. Then I met Mary Beth, a twenty-year veteran substance abuse counselor, and she started 'schooling' me on just how bad it really

is, especially here in Kentucky. I started reading books and articles and watching videos and documentaries on the epidemic, and eventually, I began to conceive of a play about it that would be designed to help raise public awareness about this awful epidemic. Avoidance is the result."

This production is made possible by generous grants from the City of Morehead and the Rowan County Fiscal Court. All proceeds will be donated to non-profit facilities or treatment programs in Rowan County that are supporting or treating victims of the opioid epidemic.

Performances on January 25th and 26th will be at 7:30 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on January 27th. All performances will be at the Rowan County Arts Center.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the Rowan County Arts Center. Reservations can be made

by calling 606-783-9857 or online at rcac@morehead-tourism.com.

This play contains profanity and adult situations and is not suitable for children under 17.

Colgan is an author and award-winning playwright who grew up in Fleming County and received his Bachelor's degree from Morehead State in 1971. He is a member of the Morehead Theatre Guild where he has been involved in six productions, two as director and four as an actor, the most recent being as Morrie in Tuesdays With Morrie in 2017. His plays have been produced in Kentucky, Texas, California, Minnesota, Connecticut, New York City, and Ontario, Canada. His short story, "Shelter," was published by the venerable Sewanee Review in their Spring 2016 Edition. Another story, "The Long Night's Moon," was published in 2017 by daCunha Global.

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