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The Jackson County Times Can Now Be Found at the Following Locations:

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Opal's Restaurant
McKee Auto

Sand Gap - Clover Bottom:
Whistle Stop
Fill Up's Gas and Grocery
Big Hill Market

Rep. Brandon Reed Pre-Files Measure Requiring "In God We Trust" To Be Displayed in Schools

Similar Measure Recently Enacted in Tennessee

Frankfort, Ky. (August 21, 2018) – Representative Brandon Reed of Hodgenville has pre-filed legislation that would require public elementary and secondary schools to display the national motto, "In God We Trust," in a prominent location.

"In God We Trust" has served as America's national motto since 1956, and is featured on money, license plates, and a variety of other platforms.

"There is no reason for us to be ashamed of our national motto; it is a vital part of our culture," said Representative Reed, an evangelist from Larue County. "We are one nation under God, and that reality should be reflected in public life, including in the buildings where our children are being educated."

BR 159 defines "prominent location" as a school entry way, cafeteria, or common area where students are likely to see the motto. The move comes following the passage of similar laws in other states, including in Tennessee, where the measure passed overwhelmingly in both the State Senate and House.

The display may take the form of a mounted plaque or student artwork, but is not limited to those items.

"In a time of rampant drug use, increasing school violence, and mounting cases of suicide among our youth, we need God in our schools now more than ever," Reed added.

If passed in the 2019 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, local school boards would be required to implement the measure beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

Kentucky's Education Professional Standard Board Approves Waiver Removing Requirement for Rank II

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky's Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) voted on Monday to approve a waiver that removes the requirement for teachers to move to Rank II – a move that will provide districts with greater flexibility and support in recruiting and retaining teachers. Most Kentucky teachers earn Rank II by completing an EPSB-approved master's degree program. Before today's action, Kentucky educators were required to obtain Rank II by the second renewal of their five-year professional certificate.

"EPSB's waiver is a positive step for districts and teachers," said Wayne Lewis, Interim Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education and the Executive Secretary of the EPSB. "While many teachers will continue to pursue Rank II with either a master's degree or through a continuing education option, they will now be permitted to make the choice to do so and to pursue that advancement on their own personal and professional timelines."

The vote was 11-2, with Donna Hedgepath and Sherry Powers voting against. The move was the result of a recommendation by a 2017 board committee that reviewed expanding options for Rank II. The committee was composed of stakeholders representing both public and private higher education, school district administrators and teachers.

This is the first regular meeting of the EPSB since Gov. Matt Bevin signed an executive order that moved administrative functions of the board to the Kentucky Department of Education under the newly created Office of Education Licensure and Effectiveness, and transferred the authority of the former Executive Director of EPSB to the Commissioner of Education. Lewis discussed the changes made during his opening comments.

"The board retains the authority that it previously had. It is the entity entrusted with promulgating regulations for teacher certification and educator preparation," said Lewis. "KDE now provides the staff function. It is more in line with what is happening across the country. I look forward to continuing to work with this board, and with teachers so that we can ensure that every student in the commonwealth has access to a high quality teacher."

Additional information about today's board meeting can be found on EPSB's website. Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>

Kentucky Farm Bureau Studios Wins Three Emmy® Awards



Louisville, KY (August 21, 2018) – Kentucky Farm Bureau Studios earned three Emmy® Awards during the 54th Annual Ohio Valley Regional Emmy Awards. KFB Studios produces Bluegrass & Backroads, a show which highlights the culture and charm of Kentucky on RFD-TV and Kentucky Educational Television weekly. The studio also produces videos for KFB.

The winning entries are as follows:

- Photographer - Short Form Kentucky Farm Bureau Lead Where You Stand, Kentucky Farm Bureau Studios - Matt Hilton, Austin Anderson
- Military - Program Bluegrass & Backroads - Bluegrass Honor Flight, Kentucky Farm Bureau Studios - Matt Hilton, Austin Anderson
- Magazine Feature/Segment Bluegrass & Backroads - Hope Scarves, Kentucky Farm Bureau Studios - Matt Hilton

"Matt and Austin are outstanding individuals and great teammates", said B. Todd Bright, Communication Division Director of Kentucky Farm Bureau. "They are talented and hard-working. I would be hard-pressed to find two more deserving people for these honors."

Matt Hilton has been nominated for 25 Emmy® Awards and has now won six. Austin Anderson has been nominated for eight and has won two.