

# Pride of the Bluegrass

The News of the Lafayette Band

From the Director's Desk



Charles M. Smith

## Spring Activities Yield Much Success for Students

I'm not going to jinx it by saying winter is over (and who knows what will be going on outside by the time you read this) but I certainly have enjoyed the weather the last couple of days. It's 70 degrees outside right now, so I'm well reminded that our spring activities are coming along at a great pace!

I know that fall and marching season are usually the busiest time of the year for Band families – and with my son in the Band this year, I can appreciate that more than ever – but spring usually brings the busiest time of the year for me, with our spring activities and planning for the year ahead.

Before we get on with that discussion, though, I would like to commend the efforts of the Wind Symphony resulting in an outstanding performance at the Kentucky Music Educators Association conference on February 10. They did an exceptionally fine job with that concert and you should all be very proud of their hard work.

Will Lovan was a member of the KMEA All-State Band which performed in Louisville on Feb. 12. As first alternate, he was omitted from the list that ran in the Jan.-Feb. newsletter. Congratulations, Will!

I had more than one person tell me it was the finest performance they ever heard at a KMEA event and I heard from a former student that even the band faculty at the University of Louisville mentioned the quality of the performance to their classes. High praise, indeed!

The performance was recorded and I hope that we'll have an opportunity to watch it on Channel 13, the Fayette County Public School cable channel.

February is always a busy month for us and this year was no exception. We had 77 students participate in the Solos and Ensembles Festival at Lexington Catholic on Feb. 19, with all 77 of them receiving distinguished or proficient rankings. And that was after many of them danced the night away at the Jazz Band Dance the night before!

I really think this year's dance, one of my favorite events on the Band calendar, was one of the best ever. The Mardi Gras decorations were particularly festive and I always love to see how the kids dress up for the evening. Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a special night, especially Carole Howell, who truly rose to the occasion.

In the midst of everything going on, we have a committee putting together our budget for 2011-12, and one of the key elements will be an increase of revenue by adding

## Dates to Remember

- Feb. 28 LBA Board meeting, 6:30
- Mar. 11-12 Trombone Days @ Lafayette
- Mar. 11-12 Saxophone Days Lafayette
- Mar. 14 LBA meeting, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 18 No School
- Mar. 24-26 District Seven Honor Band
- Apr. 4-8 Spring Break
- Apr. 11 LBA meeting, 7 p.m., LHS Cafeteria Raffle Kick-off
- Apr. 25 LBA board meeting, 6:30 LHS Library
- Apr. 26 Percussion Ensemble Concert 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 29 District Band Festival, Scott County H.S., time TBA
- Apr. 30 LHS Prom

## Are you a member of The Pride?

For more information about joining this group of LBA supporters see information on the website,  
[www.lafayetteband.org](http://www.lafayetteband.org)

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another night of bingo. The bingo sessions that we hold every Tuesday night are far and away our most successful and lucrative fundraiser. It involves little selling (outside of pulltabs), it is money that comes, largely, from outside the Band family, people who are truly happy to give us their money! I would like to ask every Band family to make every effort to participate in our efforts to add a second night of bingo to our schedule every week. It will go a long way toward alleviating our budget woes and could even allow us to add budget items that we've had to eliminate the last couple of years. At the very least, it will enable us to

keep Band fees at their current level.

I really appreciate all of the efforts you've put into seeing that Lafayette continues to maintain a topnotch Band program and I hope that those efforts will continue throughout the current year and into the next.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me any day after 10 a.m. in the Band Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles M. Smith  
Director of Bands  
Lafayette High School  
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### LBA working to add second night of bingo

LBA has learned that the Clay's Mill Bingo Center, where LBA holds games on Tuesday nights, is available for additional nights of play. The Tuesday evening of play is one of the most popular nights in Lexington because of how well play is conducted and the structure of our "pay out." For these reasons, and because players have asked LBA to run another night, we are actively working to add a second night of bingo to our schedule, which could eventually add as much as \$35,000 to \$40,000 to our program.

To take advantage of this opportunity, we must approach it with the expectation that all Band families will participate in bingo fundraising, an expectation that is consistent with other booster programs. Although there are no individual benefits for participation and no penalty for not volunteering, everyone will enjoy the outcome of greater bingo revenue. Payments will be kept lower and funds will be available for such needs as instrument repair and opportunities like national competitions and parades.

LBA is currently targeting Thursday as the additional night for play and will need 13 volunteers, including a chairperson, a caller, three front desk workers, two back room workers and six pull-tab sellers for each Thursday of the

month.

Workers for the first week of each month will be recruited from the board of directors and committee heads by Joey and Sara Maggard. The second week will be covered by color guard and percussion families, recruited by Mike and Jill Richeson. Vivian Salley has volunteered to lead the brass group for week three. Group leaders for woodwinds during week four are still to be identified. Months with a fifth week will be covered by bingo chairs.

Training for volunteers who are working the second night began in February and will continue through March. Group leaders will be

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contacting Band families and asking for commitment of three nights a year that they will be to work with bingo. We hope to add the second night in April.

Thanks in advance for your willingness to participate in this great fundraiser for the Lafayette Band and we look forward to seeing you at bingo!



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*Thanks for your support of the Lafayette Band  
and music education!*

## Planning underway for upcoming season

We recently concluded a very busy period for the band with the Kentucky Music Educators Association performance by the Wind Symphony and the Jazz Band Dance and Silent Auction. Congratulations to all Wind Symphony members and to Mr. Smith on what was a memorable and well-received performance. It is a reminder of Lafayette reputation as one of the nation's finest band programs is built upon not only marching success but also concert performance excellence.

Congratulations also to our representatives at All State on their concluding performances at the Kentucky Center for the Arts. The concerts by the Kentucky All State Orchestras and All State Bands were yet another reminder that Kentucky music education is as good as it gets.

As association presidents, we are continually amazed at the commitment and hard work of

our volunteers. It is easy to think that volunteer work is over when marching season concludes. But that is not the case. We still have chaperones, field crew, food crew and uniform crew working hard through the spring supporting concert activities. And, some of our most popular and productive fundraisers are in the spring as well. Many thanks to Carole Howell for her enthusiastic planning for this year's Jazz Band Dance and Silent Auction. The dance was well attended by band families and interested community and it also provided a fun and safe environment for our students. We did not see the dance floor empty all night! The silent auction was also one of the best we have had and we offer our thanks to all who supported the Band by bidding on items and by contributing food to the event.

We look forward to our mulch fundraiser which is now underway. Please share this

opportunity with your co-workers and family. The mulch program has grown consistently over the last three years and we believe that this could be the year that this fundraiser breaks out to be one of most productive. It is also an opportunity for our Band students to get involved on mulch delivery day. You can buy mulch from many places, but the opportunity to have it delivered right to your door by a Band student is unique to our program. Please check the band website for more details.

As one academic year draws to a close, we are tasked with planning for the upcoming year. The Board of Directors is very busy planning for next year's leadership, budget and fundraising. As our service to this organization draws to a close, we remain indebted to you as members for making our responsibilities not only easier, but also fun!



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# Today is a Birthday, I Wonder for Whom . . .



Brittany Alexander	March 2	Austin Howe	March 29
Dan Alford	March 22	Ellie Johnson	March 27
Chris Baldani	March 29	Taylor McClung	March 14
Aaron Burns	March 4	Melissa McCray	March 2
Hayley Collins	March 28	Tim Michl	March 2
Ben Coyer	March 28	Rachel Mullins	March 7
Ben Crain	March 14	Ethan Smith	March 22
Dalton Hamilton	March 31	Britani Stiltner	March 6

## Mulch sales will continue until April 4

The LBA mulch sales launched at the February parent meeting and have started successfully. Students have been asked to distribute 10 post cards each to friends, teachers, neighbors and businesses--anyone who uses mulch!

Sales will continue through April 4 and mulch will be distributed on Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16.

Volunteers are needed on those days, especially people with vehicles that can carry large mulch orders. Students will be asked to be on hand for moving and carrying bags. Folks are also needed to staff the site in the parking lot of

the Millpond Shopping Center and to provide food for the workers. Contact Jill Richeson at 825-8232 or jricheson001@aol.com if you are interested in volunteering.

This the fourth year for the mulch fundraiser and it has improved steadily each year. Please make every effort to sell mulch and to help with the project on the weekend of distribution.



## LBA Parent Meeting

March 14, 7 p.m.

LHS Cafeteria

Meeting topics will include progress on the mulch sale, voting on the 2011-12 slate of officers and information about the launch of Thursday bingo.

*Carol Lynn  
Originals & Events*



# Jazz Band Dance provides fun and funds

The Lafayette Jazz Band Dance on Feb. 18 was a great success thanks to the hard work of Carole Howell, Vivian Salley and the committees that worked the silent auction, food, decorations and promotion. A big crowd danced the night away to the smooth sounds of the band and the vocal stylings of Master of Ceremonies Daniel Wade.

In addition to the quilts featuring UK and two created from show t-shirts from the last six or seven seasons, committee members gathered dozens of items that were auctioned throughout the evening. Thanks to the businesses and individuals who donated items for this successful Band event.



*The Lafayette Jazz Band (above) provided a night's music and entertainment for nearly 300 students, parents and friends at Immanuel Baptist Church on Friday, Feb. 18. The dance floor (below) was crowded most of the night with swing dancers as well as bunny hoppers.*



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A black and white illustration of an anchor, positioned below the "JLJ" logo.



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## **Raffle to launch April 11**

Fundraising for the 2010-11 season will conclude with the Spring Raffle, which will feature a grand prize of \$10,000.

The sale will begin with the kick-off at the LBA meeting on April 11. Sales will continue through early May and the prize will be awarded at the Spring Concert on May 18 at the Singletary Center for the

Arts.

Please begin thinking now about the people you know who would like to support the Lafayette Band through the purchase of a raffle ticket.

Each student will be asked to sell 25 tickets, which cost \$10 each. Thanks in advance for your support of this important fundraiser.

**If you know a business or individual who would be interested in becoming a Lafayette Band Community Sponsor for the 2011-12 season, please contact Randy Gonzalez, [randy.gonzalez@uky.edu](mailto:randy.gonzalez@uky.edu)**



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