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**2025 GRANT COUNTY NEWS
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

Thorne honored as distinguished veteran in Frankfort

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Thorne was honored with a legislative citation from the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky on Aug. 27, during the meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs & Public Protection at the Capitol Annex in Frankfort. Thirty senators and representatives were in attendance at the meeting as well as several audience members.

Thorne showed up wearing his old Marine Corps uniform, which still fit him like a glove. His black shoes gleamed with a regulation military shine. He was nominated for the honor

by Sen. Matt Nunn and Rep. Savannah Maddox. Before the meeting, he chatted with them and a few other dignitaries.

During his recognition, Thorne was seated at the table between Nunn and Maddox.

When asked to identify himself for the record, he chirped, "Jim Thorne! Good morning, Kentucky!" and got a hearty chuckle.

"I can think of no person more deserving of this recognition than Sgt. Maj. Thorne," Nunn said.

"When they were working on it [the citation] they sent me the final draft; they said 'Well, the font is as small as we can get it, so if you want to add anything else you have to take

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Betsy Smith

Before the VMAPP meeting, Sen. Matt Nunn, left, chats with Jim Thorne, center, and Sen. Aaron Reed.

Citation for Sgt. Maj. Thorne

The text of the legislative citation from the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky honoring Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Thorne reads as follows:

"Know ye that Sergeant Major Jimmy Thorne (USMC, Ret.) is recognized and honored for his years of exemplary service as a distinguished American veteran and respected member of his community. An honorable veteran of the United States Marine Corps who retired after more than three decades of brave service to his country, including during the Vietnam War, Sgt. Maj.

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Planning Commission to be dropped from MGPI suit

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Tuesday, Aug. 26, agenda for the Grant County Planning Commission contained the welcome news that the Commission is being dropped from the MGPI lawsuit.

Zoning Administrator Rebecca Ruhoff announced the City of Williamstown had settled their legal actions with MGPI (Midwest Grain Product Ingredient), the company owning the bourbon barrel warehouses in Williamstown. She said the Planning Commission has been dropped from that lawsuit and will need only to approve Chair Carl King to sign the documentation accepting the Commission's removal from the suit.

Members unanimously approved for King to sign paperwork.

ZONING CHANGE

Representative of Taylor Farm on Morgan Creek Road requested a map amendment to change their property's current zoning from Agriculture-1 (A1) to Residential-1 (R-1). Map amendments concern

potential zoning changes for the proposed locations. KRS 100.211 outlines procedures for these changes.

The request concerns a rental property on the 100-plus acre farm to be broken out into a one-acre plot with a house. The representative said owners have been renting the house, but they now want to sell it.

Commission discussed the request and, as there were no dissenting comments nor addresses to the Commission, the request was approved unanimously.

STREAMLINING THE ZONING CHANGE PROCESS

The Commission has periodically been asked to streamline the zoning change application process. To date, the process is:

- Application received
- Commission schedules public hearing
- Before the hearing, at the meeting, Commission decides to or not remit to a Subcommittee
- If remitted to Subcommittee, then committee meets and will meet with applicants.
- Commission schedules another hearing
- Committee reports to the commission any conditions or changes for the application
- The public and applicant/s can address the Commission
- Once finished, recommendations based on the hearing and subcommittee results will be sent to the appropriate legislative body
- This process can take upwards of four months.
- To streamline the process,

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Deborah Lucas Angel

Booms, lasers, oohs and aahs concluded the 2025 Party in the Park. Fireworks cascaded over the large crowd as lasers pierced the night during the after-dark exhibit.

Party in the Park brings the fun

Picture-perfect weather graced Dry Ridge for the annual Party in the Park on Saturday, Aug. 30. Classic cars, awesome fireworks, great live music, a visit from Who Dey, decadent food and plenty of free fun activities for kids made for a wonderful day.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AUTISM AND SPECIAL NEEDS DAY

This Saturday, Sept. 6, everyone is welcome to come out to Piddle Park from noon to 4 p.m. for Autism and Special Needs Day. The park will be filled with fun activities for all children. The event is sponsored by the Kentucky Hickory Autism Foundation and the City of Dry Ridge.

FARM TO TABLE DINNER

This year's Farm to Table Dinner will be Sept. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. under the lights in downtown Williamstown. The meal, featuring locally sourced produce and foods, will be prepared by culinary students at the Grant County High School Technical Center.

Serving will be FFA students from both Grant County High School and Williamstown High School.

Tickets are \$65. Only 150 tickets will be sold, so don't wait to reserve your spot at this always-memorable event. Call the Grant County Chamber of Commerce at 859-824-3322

AUTUMN FEST

Grant County Park will host Autumn Fest on Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be all sorts of fun, free activities, including bounce houses, face painting, sand art and a petting zoo for the kids as well as an antique tractor show, gellyball course (think paintball without the mess), 40 craft vendors and live music. Food

trucks will have wings, pulled chicken, hot dogs, street corn, caramel apples, funnel cake, lemonade, kettle corn and more!

Live performances begin at 10 a.m. with The Late Nighters and continue with the Hills of Kentucky Cloggers at 11:45 a.m.; Taylor Henry at 12:45 p.m.; Kentucky Lap Fiddler at 2 p.m. and Joker's Wild Band at 4 p.m.

Grant County Park is located at 144 South Main Street in Crittenden.

MARIGOLD DAY

On Saturday, Sept. 20, in downtown Williamstown, Marigold Day kicks off with a parade and car show at 10 a.m.

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