



SPORTS

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PAGE B1

# Grant County News

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\$2

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

## Williamstown City Council welcomes back Skinner, Perry

BY BETSY SMITH  
EDITOR

At the Tuesday, Sept. 2, meeting of the Williamstown City Council, Bob Perry and Rick Skinner were chosen to fill two recently vacated seats on the council.

Councilmember John Coleman announced his immediate resignation at the end of the Aug. 4 regular meeting; Councilmember Jayson Payne resigned at the Aug. 19

meeting in order to take on the role of Williamstown's planning commissioner.

At the Sept. 2 meeting, four applicants—Joshua Alsip, Christopher Jump, Bob Perry and Rick Skinner—were each given a few minutes to introduce themselves, share what they found to be pressing issues for the city and answer questions from the council. A fifth applicant, Patrick Whalen, withdrew his name before the meeting.

After adjourning into executive session to discuss the applicants, the council reconvened the open meeting with Mayor David Henson announcing no votes were taken or decisions made. He asked for a motion to approve someone to replace Coleman. Councilmember Kim Crupper nominated Perry; the motion was approved unanimously.

Henson then asked for a motion to approve someone to replace Jayson Payne. Councilmember Ronnie

Maines nominated Skinner, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Neither Perry nor Skinner is new to the Williamstown City Council. Perry was a 25-year member of the council but decided not to run in last November's election.

Skinner served as Williamstown mayor from 2011 through December, 2022.

Interestingly, only Gina Austin Smith, Ronnie Maines and Kim Crupper now hold the positions to

which they were originally elected. Former Councilmember Henson was the council's choice to take over as mayor upon the removal of Mark Christopher; April Fabela was subsequently selected by council to fill Henson's seat.

Other business

-Henson broached the subject of street-legal special purpose vehicles, wondering whether

SEE WILLIAMSTOWN/PAGE A3

### COMING UP!

**AUTUMN FEST**

Grant County Park will be hosting Autumn Fest this Saturday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be 40-plus craft vendors, antique tractors, decadent fair food, a kid zone, GellyBall Course for older kids and teens (similar to paint ball without the mess), face painters, petting zoo, live music and more. 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. The festival runs throughout the day, ending at 5 p.m., with performances by the award-winning jump rope team Heart & Sole Skippers, live music, Kentucky Cloggers, craft vendors, food trucks and activities for the kids.

**GRANT COUNTY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL**

On Sept. 27 the streets of Williamstown will echo with great Bluegrass music. Grant County Tourist & Convention Commission's Bluegrass Festival begins at 3 p.m. with the Cedar Valley Bluegrass Band and continues with The Kinman Family (4 p.m.), Curnie Wilson & Fenced In (5 p.m.), Edgar Loudermilk (6 p.m.), Kevin Prater Band (7:30 p.m.) and Volume 5 (9 p.m.). There is no cost to attend.

### INDEX

**VOLUME 118 • ISSUE 37**  
Classified, B5  
Pets, A2  
Records, B4, B6  
Sports, B1-6

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## Mother Nature left light show at home this year

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT



Deborah Lucas Angel

**Members of the Dry Ridge Fire Department and Ambulance Service take a moment to pose with Who Dey. From left: Tyler Garnett, Chief Allen Cammack, Who Dey, Jacob Phipps and Bradley Althausen.**



Deborah Lucas Angel

**Kids enjoyed the weather and the Kid Zone at the Piddle Park tennis/pickleball courts at the 2025 Party in the Park.**

Dry Ridge's 2025 Party in the Park marked its fifth year with an estimated 4,000 attending throughout the day. Mother Nature seemed to have decided to make it up to the City for her tantrum during Party in the Park 2024; nary a cloud was in the sky and humidity was low without the blazing temps of last year. In the evening, the bands, the fireworks and the laser show brought the heat, though.

As City Administrator Ken Little noted, "The day comes in waves as people come for certain portions and a lot of the time stay all day."

The Party began at 10 a.m. with the Classic Car Show. Early afternoon was the Kids Zone along with a visit from Who Dey, the Bengals' mascot. The tennis/pickleball court was converted into a full Kid Zone throughout the day with entertainment provided by Jonesville's Jumpin' Joes inflatables.

Four bands performing various musical styles entertained. Finally, at 10 p.m. the laser and fireworks show awed spectators.

Little said the musical lineup line up "started with local act Rick Kinmon, a favorite among car show enthusiasts." Kinmon was followed by Cincinnati's "band SWAN which has been around for a long time now." Next up, the "Paul Groves band [which is] a Nashville scene artist that provides country rock." Finishing the evening was "Top This Band ... a Cincinnati-based band that plays various types of music that offers high energy dance music."

All bands had returned after the 2024 thunderstorms shortened last year's concert.

SEE MOTHER/PAGE A3

## Autumn Fest is this Saturday!

BY BETSY SMITH  
EDITOR

Autumn Fest is almost here! On Saturday, Sept. 13, Grant County Park is going to be the place to be for fall fun. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and features all sorts of festive, free activities for folks of all ages and interests.

Browse 45 craft vendors, kick back and enjoy live music and entertainment, check out vintage tractors and completely wreck your diet with food trucks offering 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 Community Coordinator Chris Alstott said to expect a larger Kid Zone sponsored by Grant County Tourism. In the park's big field there will be an inflatable obstacle course, Connect 4 basketball, a petting

zoo, football activity, Popa-Balloon trailer, sand art, face painting and free crafts.

The Kid Zone continues to the Bluegrass Barn with something new this year: a GellyBall/GelTag obstacle course.

For those unfamiliar with GellyBall, it is similar to paintball except low-impact. Participants equipped with "blasters" try to run through the course without getting hit.

The blasters are filled with soft gel pellets. The "GellyBall ammo is 90% water, biodegradable and non-toxic containing no paint or stain," according to the company's website.

Gellyball is free to play and open to kids five years and up, Alstott added.

Additionally, Kenton Equipment is bringing their Dump-a-Bucket crane for kids to operate and move objects. This activity is free and located in front of the Bluegrass Barn.

Alstott extended a hearty thank you to all of the Autumn Fest sponsors: GC Tourism, Wich' Doctor, Whippy Dip, Shirt n' Stuff Happens and 7 Hills Church in Dry Ridge.

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



Melissa Muse

**Abigail and Bella Manner show off their pumpkins at last year's Autumn Fest.**