

Fiscal Court recognizes Racers pitcher

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MARSHALL COUNTY — The Marshall County Fiscal Court opened their Aug. 5 meeting with the recognition of Reese Oakley, a Marshall County alumni and current Murray State University baseball pitcher.

The court has made a habit of recognizing student athletes and groups at Marshall County High School, and therefore decided to extend an invitation to Oakley after his appearance with the Murray State Racers at the College World Series in early summer. In addition to the court, District 3 Commissioner Monti Collins's wife Denise, one of Oakley's elementary school teachers, was present for the recognition.

Deputy Judge/Executive Andy Pagel said the team's trip to Omaha, Nebraska generated 44.3 billion media impressions for the university. Oakley shared that no other team sold out of shirts at the tournament, except for the Racers. Oakley, a freshman at Murray State, described the tournament as feeling akin to playing in the major league.

"It was just crazy," said Oakley, "I mean, Omaha was the best experience I think I've ever had in my life. You know, it was like playing a major league baseball game. Just 25,000 people standing watching us play, and everybody, every team had a shirt.



Marshall County alumni and Murray State baseball pitcher Reese Oakley was recognized by the Marshall County Fiscal Court and one of his former teachers.

You know, like how they sell shirts and like out around the field and stuff. All our shirts were sold out. Nobody else's were. Everybody was buying Murray State shirts."

Following Oakley's recognition, the court heard from Parks Director Britney Moss, who shared that for the opening day of the fall Miracle League season, the park has partnered with Murray State. For the opening day festivities, the Racers baseball team will be acting as buddies for the Miracle League players, while the Murray State cheerleaders and mascot Dunker will be in atten-

dance to cheer them on.

Moss also introduced the court to two high school seniors serving as interns at the park for the year. Audrey Grace Brown is a senior at Marshall County High School, and plans to make a career in marketing. Ellie Jo Clark is a senior at Graves County High School, and is interested in working to make Miracle League more accessible to Graves County residents, as many who qualify to participate in the program are low income and have transportation issues.

The court also heard from Emergency Manage-

ment Director Curt Curtner. Curtner shared that, under KRS 39F.200, he can appoint a local search and rescue coordinator, with the approval of the fiscal court. Curtner said that the previous Rescue Squad Chief Kenny Pratt had held that position, but since Pratt had resigned from the rescue squad that authority had fallen back to Curtner. Curtner remains chief of the rescue squad, but recommended to appoint squad member Greg Bingham. The court approved Curtner's recommendation.

The court also held the first reading of an amend-

ment to the building code. The only changes were to the building fee schedule. The ordinance had not been amended since 2014. Building Inspector Casey Counce said the adjustments brought the fee schedule in line with the state's fee schedule, and that that was the county's basis for setting the fee schedule previously.

No vote was held because it was the first reading, and no amendments were suggested.

The court then approved two resolutions for grant projects, one for the senior citizens building and one

for a housing grant.

The court then approved the high bids of four road department surplus items, as well as a bid for a new road department tractor from Ag Revolution. The bid was for \$166,800, and the court had budgeted \$170,000 for the new tractor, making the bid well within the budget.

The court also approved the surplus of a secondary coroner's vehicle. The vehicle was, in essence, a defunct ambulance used primarily to transport individuals for autopsy. Following the ambulance service's receiving a new vehicle in recent months, the coroner's office took the most recently retired ambulance to begin using.

The court also approved the advertisement of bids for the park pavilion, which suffered damage from a downed tree in the May thunderstorms.

The court also rescheduled the Sept. 16 regular meeting to Sept. 15 at 9 a.m.

The court then went into executive session to discuss litigation and personnel. Upon the return from open session, the court approved to follow the recommendation of council in the ongoing opioid litigation, the placement of liens on three nuisance properties, and approved beginning the foreclosure process on a nuisance property that already had a lien placed on it.

The next meeting is set for Aug. 19 at 9 a.m.



Benton Elementary School named one of America's Healthiest Schools 2025

This national award recognizes leaders in whole child health policy and practice change

BENTON — National children's health organization, Alliance for a Healthier Generation, unveiled its 2025 list of America's Healthiest Schools, celebrating 1,119 K-12 schools nationwide for their commitment to advancing whole child health, including Benton Elementary.

Supported by Del Monte Foods, Kaiser Permanente, and Kohl's Cares, Healthier Generation's annual award program recognizes schools for implementing evidence-based policies and practices to support academic success.

Benton Elementary was awarded in five areas:

- Support School Health Services
- Bolstering Physical Education & Activity
- Strengthening Social-Emotional Health & Learning
- Cultivating Staff Well-Being
- Increasing Family & Community Engagement

Lorrie Shadowen, Principal, stated, "We're honored to receive this national recognition for our dedication to supporting the well-being of students and staff and remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering environments where all members of the school community can learn and thrive."

"We are excited to receive this award!" said Jessica Watkins, physical education teacher. "We work hard every day to teach our students lifelong sports, teamwork and healthy lifestyle habits while also offering opportunities to ensure that our teachers and staff are supported."

Schools play a crucial role in positively shaping the health and well-being of our nation's youth, and they deserve national recognition for their outstanding efforts.

Kathy Higgins, CEO of Healthier Generation said, "The dedication of school leaders, educators and staff to support the physical, emotional and academic needs of their students is nothing short of extraordinary. Their commitment is creating healthier futures for children and communities alike."

Officials: 5 soldiers shot at Fort Stewart

BY RUSS BYNUM AND MIKE CATALINI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT STEWART, Ga. — An Army sergeant opened fire at Fort Stewart on Wednesday, shooting five soldiers and prompting a brief lockdown at one the country's largest Army bases, officials said.

Few details were immediately available about what led to the gunfire, but the suspect is an Army sergeant, according to a U.S. official. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The injured soldiers are stable and recovering, said Brig Gen. John Lubas. The Army won't release names pending notification of family members and they won't speculate on motive, Lt. Col. Angel Tomko said at a news conference.

Officials identified the shooter as logistics Sgt.

Quornelius Radford. A telephone number listed for Radford in public records rang unanswered on Wednesday.

The shooter opened fire at his workplace, officials said. Soldiers in the area who witnessed the shooting "immediately and without hesitation" tackled the shooter, Lubas said.



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