

News of Record

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers are listed on deeds filed at the LaRue County Clerk’s Office in Hodgenville. FMV means fair market value and is typically based upon assessed taxable value.

Quitclaim deed. Destiny Violet Ivy Howard, aka Destiny Morris, to Matthew Wesley Morris. Youngers Creek Road, New Haven. No monetary consideration, FMV: \$134,000.

Jason D. Cooper, Trustee of the Gary L. Cooper Irrevocable Trust, to Elisabeth A. Sheeley. Goodin Williams Road, Hodgenville. \$31,005.70.

Troy D. Knight, aka Troy Knight, and Jill A. Knight, aka Jill Knight, to Troy and Jill Knight Living Trust. Knob Schoolhouse Road, Sonora. No monetary consideration, FMV: \$219,850.

Troy D. Knight, aka Troy Knight, and Jill A. Knight, aka Jill Knight, to Troy and Jill Knight Living Trust. Knob Schoolhouse Road, Sonora. No monetary consideration, FMV: \$88,050.

Troy D. Knight, aka Troy Knight, and Jill A. Knight, aka Jill Knight, to Troy and Jill Knight Living Trust. Knob Schoolhouse Road, Sonora. No monetary consideration, FMV: \$60,000.

Will Harris Homes LLC to Kauffeld Brothers Construction LLC. Sweet Grass Court, Hodgenville. \$56,500.

Tonda Underwood and Stephanie Compton, as Co-Executors of the Estate of William H. Shelton, to

Brittany Paige Garvin. Dogwood Drive, Hodgenville. \$125,000.
Erwin Ida and Karen L. Ida to Erwin Ida and Karen L. Ida. Ball Hollow Road, Hodgenville. No monetary consideration, FMV: \$425,000.

Michael Keith Hornback, aka Michael Hornback, and Daphne L. Hornback, aka Daphne Hornback, to Michael England and Leigh Ann England. Bluegrass Drive, Hodgenville. \$350,000.

Betty L. Reynolds, aka Betty Reynolds, to Stacie Kazee, Trustee of the Betty Reynolds Irrevocable Trust. Dan Dunn Road, Hodgenville. No monetary consideration, FMV: \$102,500.

Phillip Todd Akin to Matthew Shane Clifford and Katherine Ashley Clifford. Stiles Ford Road, Hodgenville. \$150,000.

Riverbrook Investments LLC to Matthew Cade Kessler. Heying Lane, Hodgenville. \$108,150.

Wayne E. Dobson and Anna Lee Dobson to Dennis Dobson. Glendale Road, Hodgenville. No monetary consideration, FMV: \$400,000.

Wayne E. Dobson and Anna Lee Dobson to Dennis Dobson. Glendale Road, Hodgenville. No monetary consideration, FMV: \$27,900.

Wayne E. Dobson and Anna Lee Dobson to Hillary Logsdon. McCubbins Road, Hodgenville. No monetary consideration, FMV: \$85,000.

Sheriff receives clean audit

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

The audit of the sheriff’s settlement — 2024 taxes of LaRue County Sheriff Brian Smith was recently released by State Auditor Allison Ball, with no instances of noncompliance noted.

Kentucky law requires the annual audit of the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this, the auditor issues two sheriff’s reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff’s tax account and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office. Auditing standards require the auditor’s letter to communicate whether the former sheriff’s settlement presents fairly the taxes charged, credited, and paid in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the

United States of America. The sheriff’s office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. The sheriff’s responsibilities include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice.

According to the report, Smith’s financial statement fairly presents the taxes charged, credited and paid for during the period of Sept. 1, 2024, through Aug. 31, 2025, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting. No instances of noncompliance or matters involving internal control over financial reporting and its operation that were considered to be material weaknesses were noted.

The audit report can be found at auditor.ky.gov.

VOTER

FROM PAGE A1

clerk’s office by 6 p.m. on Election Day.

In-person excused absentee voting will be available Oct. 21 through 28. With the exception of Saturday and Sunday, residents can cast their vote from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the clerk’s office. Requirements to be eligible include a student who resides temporarily outside his or her county; voter or voter’s spouse who has surgery or hospitalization scheduled during Early voting and Election Day; uniformed service member who finds out they will be confined to a military base during Early Voting and Election Day and is not eligible for a mail in ballot; in last trimester of pregnancy; voter who temporarily resides outside the state but still eligible to vote in KY; or a person who due to age, disability or illness will be unable to attend Early voting or Election Day vote centers; and voters who will be out of the county during Early voting or Election Day.

Early in-person voting will be held at the clerk’s office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct.

29 to Oct. 31. Anyone registered LaRue County voter is eligible to cast their vote during this time.

No in-person voting will be available on Monday, Nov. 2

Election day voting will occur from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 3. LaRue County voting centers include:

- Magnolia/Mt Sherman: LaRue County Fiscal Court Magnolia building, 432 Mill Street, Magnolia.
- Upton: West Point Bank, located at 114 N. Walnut Street
- Lyons: Rolling Fork Christian Church, located at 2630 Lyons Station Rd, New Haven.
- Vote Center: First Baptist Church, located at 730 Tonieville Rd, Hodgenville.

Please note that the Magnolia/Mt. Sherman and Upton locations have changed.

More information relating to the LaRue County general election, including a sample ballot, will be published in the coming weeks. For questions or more information in the interim, contact LaRue County Clerk Rhonda Metcalf at 270-358-3544.

Hodgenville woman accused of Medicaid fraud

Half a dozen Kentuckians were recently indicted for Medicaid fraud, including a Hodgenville woman.

The Hardin County Grand Jury returned a two-count indictment for **Shawna Smith**, 45, on Sept. 10. The first charge – knowing abuse or neglect of an adult – states that, between Feb. 19, 2019, and Oct. 21, 2021, Smith either unlawfully abused or neglected another adult or solicited, commanded or engaged in a conspiracy with another person with the intention of promoting or facilitating the commission of the offense. This is a class C felony, punishable by between five to 10 years in prison.

The second charge – devising or engaging in a scheme to defraud the Kentucky medical assistance program of \$1,000

or more – states that, between Sept. 23, 2018, and Oct. 21, 2021, she either devised a scheme or entered into a conspiracy to aid another in obtaining payments from the Kentucky Medical Assistance Program by “submitting fictitious, false or fraudulent documents for payment, specifically time sheets, to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services valued at \$1,000 or more.” This is a Class D felony, punishable by between one to five years in prison.

An arrest warrant on the indictment has been issued with a \$25,000 cash bond. Her arraignment is scheduled for Oct. 6.

Smith’s co-defendant, 49-year-old Elizabethtown resident **Ricky Simpson**, faces the same charges.

Attorney General Russell

Coleman announced the indictments on Tuesday, Sept. 15 as part of the office’s continuation to prioritize Medicaid fraud, having recently participated in the National Health Care Fraud Takedown. Along with state and federal partners, multiple investigations by the office uncovered nearly \$11 million in health care fraud. Other cases included in the announcement include:

- A Sept. 9 Warren County Grand Jury indictment of **Chester Meador**, 61, and **Starla Meador**, 59, both of Smiths Grove, for three counts of Devising or Engaging in a Scheme to Defraud the Kentucky Medical Assistance Program of \$1,000 or more (Class D Felony) with a loss amount of more than \$113,000.
- A Sept. 9 Pike County

Grand Jury indictment of **Delphia Taylor**, 44, and **Samantha Scott**, 63, both of Mouthcard, for one count of Devising or Engaging in a Scheme to Defraud the Kentucky Medical Assistance Program of \$1,000 or more (Class D Felony) with a loss amount of nearly \$17,000.

All three cases were investigated by the Attorney General’s Office of Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Control. The cases were respectively presented to the Grand Jury by Assistant Attorneys General David Startzman, Emily Campbell and Michael Brophy.

To file a Medicaid fraud or abuse complaint, visit ag.ky.gov/MedicaidFraud or call the Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Hotline at 1-877-ABUSE TIP (1-877-228-7384).

JAIL LOG

Bookings at The LaRue County Detention Center from Monday, Sept. 14 to Friday, Sept. 18.

- **Lameatrie F. Griffin**, 55 of Campbellsville. Execution of a Taylor Co. complaint warrant for theft by unlawful taking or disposition shoplifting.
- **Russell Seward**, 61

of Hodgenville. Execution of a LaRue Co. bench warrant for contempt of court libel/slander resistance to order and a Green Co. bench warrant for contempt of court libel/slander resistance to order.

- **Keanna Decius**, 24 of Louisville. Speeding 25 mph over limit, driving on

DUI suspended license (first offense) and failure to surrender revoked operator’s license.

- **Seantel Wilone Watson**, 39 of West Liberty. Execution of a Scott Co. indictment warrant for possession of a handgun by a convicted felon.

Note: The above information includes a weekly list of bookings into the LaRue County Detention Center. The individuals listed in the log have been arrested and charged with a crime. All individuals arrested are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

LARUE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

JUDGE TERESA MCMAHAN-MILLER
Sept. 9

Eric Underwood, DOB 1974. First-degree stalking. Hearing held. Probable cause found. Case referred to the grand jury. Unsecure bond. Defendant shall follow terms of any protective order; all other conditions remain the same. (2026)

Daniel Ward, DOB 1966. Violation of a Kentucky EPO/DVO, harassment – no physical contact and first-degree stalking. Hearing held. Probable cause found. Case referred to the grand jury. (2026)

Addysen Fay Dotson, DOB 2007. Speeding 20 mph over (school zone) and reckless driving. Alive at 25 on Dec. 2. (2026)

Chad Skaggs, DOB 1978. Fourth-degree assault – domestic violence (minor injury). Plea of not guilty entered. Pretrial conference Oct. 7. Bond modified to no unlawful contact, all other conditions remain the same. (2026)

Isiah Toro, DOB 1999. No/expired Kentucky registration receipt and no/expired registration plates. Count one amended to all other traffic violations. Failure to appear. (2026)

Jackson Bryce Cornelius, DOB 2005. Speeding 26 mph or greater over limit and reckless driving. Alive at 25 on Dec. 2. (2026)

Britney Davis, DOB 1987. Speeding 23 mph over limit, no/expired Kentucky registration receipt, no/expired registration plates, failure to produce

insurance card and license to be in possession. LCATS on Dec. 16 for count one. Counts two, three, four and five dismissed with prejudice based on proof. (2026)

Britney G. Davis, DOB 1987. No/expired Kentucky registration receipt and no/expired registration plates. Case dismissed with prejudice based on proof. (2026)

Kyle David Henderson, DOB 2005. Failure to wear seat belts and no/expired Kentucky registration receipt. Defendant stipulates probable cause. Case dismissed per LaRue County Attorney’s Office. (2026)

Kyle D. Henderson, DOB 2005. No/expired Kentucky registration receipt, no/expired registration plates, operating vehicle with expired operator’s license, failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security (second or more offense), operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol (first offense; aggravating circumstances) and possession of an open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle. Count four amended to failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security (first offense). Plea of guilty entered for amended count four. Counts one, two, three, five and six dismissed per plea. (2025)

Kyle D. Henderson, DOB 2005. No/expired Kentucky registration receipt, no/expired registration plates, driving on DUI suspended license (first

offense), possession of an open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle, failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security (second or more offense) and license to be in possession. Defendant stipulates probable cause. Case dismissed per LaRue County Attorney’s office. (2026)

Darrel Eugene Stinson, DOB 1964. Speeding 21 mph over limit, improper equipment and operating on suspended/revoked operator’s license. Failure to appear. \$500 cash bench warrant issued. (2025)

Stacy G. Ford, DOB 1981. Possession of marijuana (less than eight ounces for own use). Pretrial conference Nov. 4. (2026)

John Wesley Johnson, DOB 1994. Speeding 26 mph or greater over limit, resisting arrest and obstructing government operations. Plea of guilty entered for counts one and two. Count three dismissed per plea. (2026)

Jonathon James Underwood, DOB 1992. Unlawful possession of a weapon on school property. Plea of not guilty entered. Preliminary hearing waived. Remand Oct. 14 court date. (2026)

Cami Jane Riggs, DOB 1972. Communication device violation (first offense). LCATS completed, case dismissed. (2026)

Joyce Valentine Jackson Atalig, DOB 2003. Financial obligations. Failure to appear. \$500 bench warrant issued. (2025)

Perry A. Mitchell, DOB 1959. Financial obligations. Failure to appear. \$400 bench warrant issued. (2025)

Austin M. Wallis, DOB 1998. Alcohol intoxication in a public place. Plea of guilty entered. (2026)

Sept. 17

Christian Allen Abel, DOB 1999. Operating on suspended/revoked operator’s license, license to be in possession, no/expired Kentucky registration receipt, no/expired registration plates and failure to produce insurance card. Plea of guilty entered. (2026)

Kelcie Shanelle Hodge, DOB 1994. Theft of identity of another without consent, giving officer false identifying information and three counts of fourth-degree assault (no visible injury). Plea of not guilty entered. Preliminary hearing Sept. 23. Bond unsecured, all other conditions remain the same including no unlawful contact with the victim. (2026)

Darrel Eugene Stinson, DOB 1964. Speeding 21 mph over limit, improper equipment and operating on suspended/revoked operator’s license. Recall failure to appear and bench warrant. Plea of not guilty entered. Pretrial conference Oct. 14. (2025)

Note: The above information includes a weekly listing of cases heard by the LaRue County District Court. Individuals are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

BOARD

FROM PAGE A1

relating to the 2025 tax rate is resolved in favor of the LaRue County Schools, the recallable portion of the 2025 tax rate – 3.8 cents – will be added to the rate adopted this year. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017.

The opportunity for audience comments was available at the beginning of the meeting. During the audience comments sections, community members Kathy Ross, Ashley Carter and Dale Morris were the only ones that had signed in to speak. All three spoke in favor of the tax proposed for fiscal year 2027, speaking to the need of additional funding to provide more programs so students don’t have to go out of district to receive opportunities for trades. Ross and Morris both

spoke to the issue that Division 1 representative Gilbert, their board member, was not representing the constituents properly and their voices were not being heard. Carter addressed how students that travel out of district to receive the vital training needed for the future, has positive and negative effects on the students, missing key teaching time at the high school and also cultural aspects of being a student. All three were in favor of the proposed tax increase.

During the tax rate discussion, Gilbert questioned why the Board had taken a 4% increase every year over the past 10 years and stated that this would be the 11th year.

“We are providing more and more services all the time,” said Hinton. “Our job and our fiscal responsibility is to make certain that we are acquiring

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