

# COURTHOUSE

## CIVIL SUITS

INEZ — Martin Circuit Clerk Denise Gauze reported the following civil suits filed in her office from April 24 to April 29:

Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Amanda Stepp.

Merrick Bank vs. Diana McCoy.

Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Natasha Mollett.

Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Gary D. Preston.

Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Heather Sluss.

Edward Castle vs. Christina Maynard.

Samuel J. Mattox vs. Laurie J. Mattox.

Timothy Roberts vs. Teenie L. Jarvis.

## DEEDS

INEZ — Martin County Clerk Susie Skyles reported the following deeds recorded in her office through April 29:

Floyd Howell and Lou Ellen Howell to Raymond Fletcher and Sharon Fletcher.

Emory Garland Mollette to Kimberly Grim, Ruby Ilene Mollette, Roy Garland and Jennifer Ann Patrick.

Christine Preece to James R. Horn and Congetta M. Horn.

Sara Hall and Gerrie D. Clark to Sara Hall.

## MARRIAGES

INEZ — Martin County Clerk Susie Skyles reported the following marriages recorded in her office through April 29:

Talyn Grace Maynard, 20, of Peytona, West Virginia, and Garret Nathaniel Runyon, 22, of Peyto-

## DOCKET

INEZ — Judge Brett Butcher heard the following cases April 28 in Martin District Court:

Dakota Joe Bowen (arraignment) — 1. Speeding 19 mph over the limit; 2. Failure to wear a seat belt; 3. Failure to produce insurance card: 1. Six-month diversion and court costs, \$143.00, show cause 10/13/26 at 9:30 a.m.; 2. Dismissed with warning; 3. Dismissed, proof shown.

Patton Clinton Brewer (arraignment) — 1. Speeding 17 mph over the limit; 2. Failure to wear a seat belt; 3. Failure to notify the Department of Transportation of address change: 1. Six-month diversion; 2. Dismissed with warning; 3. Dismissed, proof shown.

Steve Farnham (arraignment) — 1. Failure to produce an insurance card; 2. Operating on a suspended/revoked operator's license; 3. Failure of owner to maintain re-

quired insurance security, first; 4. Display of illegal/altered registration plate; 5. Improper registration plate; 6. Inadequate silencer (muffler); 7. No/expired Kentucky registration receipt; 8. Rear license not illuminated: Charges 1 and 3 dismissed, proof shown; all others will be heard at pretrial conference on 6/23/26 at 10 a.m.

Bobby Joe Fletcher (arraignment) — Failure to wear seat belts; no/expired registration plates; no/expired Kentucky registration receipt; failure to produce insurance card: Failure to appear.

Sabastian Wyatt Jude (arraignment) — Speeding 20 mph over the limit: Failure to appear.

Truman Maynard Jr. (arraignment) — No/expired registration plates; failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, first; operating on suspended/revoked operator's license: Pled not guilty, pretrial conference 8/18/26 at 10 a.m.

Keaton Isaiah Meade (arraignment) — Speeding 15 mph over the limit; no/expired Kentucky regis-

tration receipt; failure to produce insurance card: Motion and order.

Ashley Jordan Mills (motion hour-recall failure to appear) — Failure to produce insurance card; operating vehicle with expired operator's license: Dismissed, proof shown.

Kimberly Nicole Mollette (arraignment) — Speeding 18 mph over limit: Motion and order.

Whitley Ann Moore (arraignment) — Speeding 15 mph over limit; no/expired Kentucky registration receipt; failure to produce insurance card: Reset 6/23/26 at 10 a.m.

Devin Morris (arraignment) — Local burning ban: Pled guilty, \$100 fine and court cost, \$263, show cause 10/13/26 at 10 a.m., maintain garbage pickup.

Timothy Austin Mullett (arraignment) — Inadequate silencer (muffler); operating on suspended/revoked operator's license; no/expired registration plates; failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, first: Pled not guilty, pre-

trial conference 6/9/26 at 10 a.m.

Jordan Lee Mullins (arraignment) — 1. Speeding 21 mph over the limit; 2. Failure to produce insurance card: 1. Six-month diversion and court cost, \$143, show cause 10/13/26 at 9:30 a.m.; 2. Dismissed, proof shown.

Emily Brooke Springer (arraignment) — Speeding 13 mph over limit: Failure to appear.

Steven Luther Farnham (motion hour) — Failure to produce insurance card; 2. Failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance, first; 3. Operating on suspended/revoked operator's license; possessing license when privileges are revoked/suspended; speeding 9 mph over limit: Pretrial 6/23/26 at 10 a.m.

Adam Dalton (pretrial conference-motion to dismiss) — No/expired Kentucky registration receipt; no/expired registration plates: Dismissed, removed from active docket.

Leigh Ann Marquez (pretrial conference) — Alcohol intoxication in a

public place, first and second offense; endangering the welfare of a minor: Reset 6/23/26 at 10 a.m.

Harley Dale Stepp (pretrial conference) — Operating motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol 0.08 first: Order.

John W. Wilson (pretrial conference) — Careless driving: One-year diversion on condition that he has no new violations of law and follows all school pickup and drop-off procedures.

Joshua Scott (preliminary hearing) — Possession of controlled substance, first degree, first offense (drug unspecified); possession of controlled substance, third degree (drug unspecified): Bond remains the same, conflict counsel needed, reset 5/5/26 at 10:30 a.m.

Tiffany Taylor (preliminary hearing) — Criminal abuse, second degree (child 12 or under); knowingly reporting child abuse falsely; knowingly reporting child abuse falsely: Bond remains the same, conflict counsel needed, reset 5/5/26 at 10:30 a.m.

# Invasive species project planned

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is intended to inform the residents of Martin County, Kentucky that the Big Sandy Area Development District is in the process of closing out the Agricultural Apple Sorting & Packing Facility ARC POWER Project.

The project was funded in part by the Appalachian Regional Commission and administered by the Kentucky Community Development Block Grant Program. A public hearing will be held at the Historic Martin County Courthouse, 32 East Main Street, Inez, KY 41224 on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at Noon.

The purpose of this hearing is to review past use of funds and program performance. If there are any questions or comments about the project, please direct them to the following:

Eric Ratliff, Executive Director  
Big Sandy Area Development District  
110 Resource Court  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 886-2374  
1-800-648-6056 TDD

The Big Sandy Area Development District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, region, or disability, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids and services, to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs, and activities. Any persons requiring special needs assistance should contact Joe Jacobs at (606) 886-2374 at least five days prior to the meeting. The TDD number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-648-6056.

Comment Due Date

Written comments will be received until the date of the hearing, May 19, 2026.  
18b

State wildlife officials will temporarily close portions of three wildlife management areas in Martin and Pike counties this month to carry out a large-scale habitat improvement effort targeting invasive plant species.

The closures will occur during a two-day window, either May 4-8 or May 11-15, depending on weather conditions, according to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Crews plan to treat roughly 2,000 acres across the Legacy, Pocahontas and RH Group wildlife management areas, focusing on sericea lespedeza and autumn olive, invasive plants that crowd out native vegetation and diminish habitat quality. Officials say the work will improve grasslands and expand forage for elk.

The agency is monitoring forecasts to determine the optimal treatment win-

dow and may adjust the schedule if conditions are not suitable. Staff will be on-site during operations, and some roads may close temporarily, though most areas will remain open.

The three properties — all located on or near reclaimed mine lands in Martin and Pike counties — include a mix of grass, scrub and timber. Active mining may still be underway in some areas. Officials advise visitors to use caution on haul roads, stay clear of heavy equipment and highwall mines, and yield to all mining traffic.

Legacy properties are open to hunting of all game animals. Hunters should refer to the tract descriptions for elk-hunting specifics. Damage to trees, including screw-in steps, and baiting or hunting over bait are prohibited.

The North Martin County, Tug Fork-Martin and South Martin-Pike tracts

include reclaimed surface mine land with grass, scrub and timber. All lie within Elk Hunting Units 6 or 7, with U.S. 119 dividing Unit 6 (north and west) from Unit 7 (south and east) on the South Martin-Pike tract.

Much of the acreage is managed as the Tug Fork Regulated Area. The remaining sections are open without additional restrictions to hunters selected for the applicable elk units. Drawn elk hunters may apply to hunt these properties through the Elk Hunting Unit and Regulated Area drawing. Contact Scott Freidhof at 606-783-8634.

Pocahontas consists primarily of reclaimed surface-mined and forested land. Foot travel only off area mine roads or behind locked gates. Active mining practices are underway on some portions of the property. Use caution when traveling and always give mining equipment and large trucks the right of way.

The RH Group property, also within Units 6 and 7,

is open for spring turkey and squirrel hunting under state regulations. Hunters must obtain a waiver before entering the property by submitting a form to [leagle@rossharrisgroup.com](mailto:leagle@rossharrisgroup.com) and carrying the approved document while on-site.

Firearms are allowed for most game, though deer hunting is limited to archery.

Prohibited activities include commercial guiding, camping, ATV use, horseback riding, fishing, night hunting, baiting, livestock production and the use of screw-in steps or tree stands that damage trees.

Invasive plants have established footholds in Kentucky's fields and forests, threatening native plants and animals. Officials said preventing new introductions, further spread and additional impacts of invasive species is critical. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife offers resources for landowners.

Learn more at [Nuisance Species Plans - Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife](#).

# MARTIN COUNTY

VOTE!

## Drop Box Location for Mail-In Ballots

Martin County Government Center  
42 Main Street, Inez, KY 41224

## Excused In-Person Absentee Location

May 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 2026  
Martin County Clerk's Office  
42 E. Main Street, Inez, KY 41224

## In-Person No-Excuse Absentee Location

May 14, 15, 16, 2026  
Martin County Clerk's Office  
42 E. Main Street, Inez, KY 41224  
10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**For further assistance, contact the clerk's office at 298-2810**



Planned Habitat Improvement

KDFWR photo

The Martin County-Tug Valley

## MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

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**ROGER SMITH**  
PUBLISHER

Letters to the editor must be signed and accompanied by an address and telephone number where the writer can be reached for verification. Phone numbers will not be published. The management reserves the right to reject any letter deemed libelous or otherwise unfit for publication.

Send all correspondence to: THE MOUNTAIN CITIZEN P.O. Box 1029, Inez, Kentucky 41224. The telephone is (606) 298-7570. Email address: [mountaincitizen@bellsouth.net](mailto:mountaincitizen@bellsouth.net). Our subscription rate is \$20 per year in-county and \$27 out-of-county.

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