

# Knox Schools Recognize Progress, Approve Student Trips and Facility Updates

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During its regular monthly meeting, the Knox County Board of Education reviewed district facility updates, approved financial and personnel actions, and advanced several agreements, including the renewal of a gym lease with Lynn Camp Baptist Church and travel requests for Lynn Camp DECA students.

The regularly scheduled Knox

County School Board meeting began with the pledge of allegiance by young students from Dewitt Elementary, followed by a prayer from Ralph Halcomb from Artemus Baptist Church.

In reports to the board and updates from the architect on current and future projects, Superintendent Jeremy Ledford shared that the facilities are beginning to be in really great shape, and the transportation department,

RECC, and Barbourville Utility Company have been hard at work to help keep all facilities safe and in great condition.

Ledford stated, “Mr. Barton has done a fantastic job in changing the look of our district. He has great maintenance workers who keep our district running.”

- The recent HVAC system upgrade project at Girdler Elementary has been completed.
- Board members approved all

actions of business, such as financial statements and reports, bills and claims, previous meeting minutes, Superintendent’s Personnel Report, Field trips, fundraisers, and facility use requests, and Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements (MOU/MOAs).

- Scott Noel was appointed as the hearing officer for the upcoming public hearing.

Lastly, board members ap-

proved the renewal of the gym lease agreement with Lynn Camp Baptist Church for extracurriculars, two out-of-state trips for Lynn Camp DECA students to Arlington, Virginia, and St. Augustine, Florida, from March 6, 2026, to March 10, 2025, and a settlement agreement and general release for previous damage to a bus by a parked car, with damages totaling out at \$1,547.91.

INDICT

FROM PAGE A1

gle, Corbin, Ky.: Two counts of Trafficking in a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, First Offense (George Jesse Jr.); one count of Trafficking in a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, First Offense (George Jesse Jr. and Ashley Engle); one count of Tampering with Physical Evidence (Ashley Engle); two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Minor (George Jesse Jr. and Ashley Engle); one count of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (George Jesse Jr.

and Ashley Engle); one count of Driving a Motor Vehicle While License is Revoked or Suspended (George Jesse Jr.); one count of Possession of Marijuana (George Jesse Jr. and Ashley Engle).

- Michael Todd Goff, Corbin, Ky.: One count of Possession of Burglar’s Tools; one count of Criminal Trespass in the Third Degree; one count of Theft by Unlawful Taking of the Value of \$500 or Less.

**Cases continued by the Knox County Grand Jury (to be heard December 16, 2025 and returned December 19, 2025):**

- Steven Brewer

- Thurman Eaton
- Preston Messer
- Dakota Middleton
- Lora Wombles
- Adam Baker
- Jacob Elliott
- Koby Mickel
- Thomas Engle
- Jacob Elliott
- Lee Jackson
- Kasey Brown
- David Hensley
- Sherry hale
- Jack Ledington
- Brody Williams
- Stacy Rice
- Donald Murray
- Crystal Sproles
- Jennifer Logan
- Jerry Garland
- Allen Honeycutt
- Georgia Riley
- Steven Lawson
- Christopher Stoots

- Robert Brock
- Jamie Lewis
- Robert Mayfield
- Travis Owens
- Glennis Hensley
- Jason Jones
- Kristopher Barnett
- Jerry Smith
- Dennis Abner
- Tanner Pomraning
- Timothy Lowe
- Shane Gray
- Justin Miracle
- Reona Bledsoe
- Steven Roark
- Kenny Fry (new indictments 25-CR-139 and 140)
- Utah Proffitt
- Jeffery Gray
- Bethany Collins
- Whitney Smith
- Zachary Asher

- Steven Roark

**Cases dismissed by the Knox County Grand Jury:**

- Daisy Allen
- Jennifer Cox
- Joshua Davis

- Nathaniel Eidson
- James Franklin
- James Helton
- Travis Owens (also on continued list)
- Jennifer Smith
- Tyler Woolum

Correction

In a story published in the October 22, 2025 issue of The Mountain Advocate concerning a recent meeting of the Barbourville Board of Education, it was incorrectly reported that the school district had purchased the former Stivers Aquatic Center from Union Commonwealth

University, the purchase has not been made. The school district is currently exploring the costs associated with the renovation of the property should a purchase go forward.

The management of this newspaper regrets this error and any confusion it may cause.

# Sheriff Smith’s Halloween Safety Tips for Trick-or-Treating

Sheriff Mike Smith would like to remind everyone to have a happy and safe Halloween this year.

Sheriff Smith would also like to provide the following tips as a reminder of how to keep Trick or Treaters safe:

- Decorate Costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers
- Costumes should consist of light colors
- Masks can obstruct a child’s vision, use face paint and make-up whenever possible

- Costumes should be the right size to prevent trips and falls
- Carry flashlights or glow sticks
- Cross the street at corners
- Look left and right and left again before crossing the street
- Do not use electronic media devise, keep heads up and walk, don’t run
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing-up

Parents can also add to the safety of their children by:

- Providing adult supervision during trick or treating
- Do not allow kids to accept treats that are not commercially wrapped
- Do not allow kids to eat any treats, until they have been inspected

Drivers should also help keep kids safe by:

- Slow down and be alert in residential areas
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections and near the road

- Eliminate any distractions inside the car such as texting or other use of electronic devices
- Concentrate on the road and your surroundings
- Expect kids to do the unexpected

Sheriff Smith would like to reiterate that the two most important tips to ensure a safe Halloween are: Parents to accompany their children while they are trick or treating and for drivers to expect the unexpected.

Al-Anon meets weekly

Al-Anon (Support for Families and Friends of Alcoholics) meets weekly on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Barbourville.

Therapeutic Foster Care

Benchmark Family Services is a Therapeutic Foster Care agency offering free orientation classes for anyone interested in information about becoming a Foster Parent. Please call our office at 606-526-6992 for more information.

Redemption & Recovery

Each Friday at 12:30 p.m. Redemption & Recovery meets at East Barbourville Baptist Church.

Feed My Sheep Community Meal

Feed My Sheep Community Meal is once again starting our free weekly meal. We will serve on each Thursday at 6 p.m. except for 1st Thursday of the month. Hope to see all our old friends. We are located in Corbin on College St in The Barn.

Coffee And Bible Study With A Preacher?

Hey friends, I’m a Gospel preacher ministering

Community Calendar

Submit your events to [news@mountainadvocate.com](mailto:news@mountainadvocate.com) or text to 606-546-9229

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in the Corbin area with the Keavy church of Christ. We are working to start a church of Christ in Barbourville.

Would you be interested in getting together for a free Bible study and cup of coffee in your choice of restaurant in Barbourville? My treat. I’ll even throw in a free Bible!

If you are interested, please contact me so we can set up an appointment (Adult Guardians Must Accompany Minors).

My number is (606) 216-1757 (Text Or Call).

ALSO: FREE BIBLE STUDIES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE MAIL

AND HELP WITH FOOD BOXES (WHILE SUPPLIES ARE AVAILABLE)

Gospel Barn Hosts Weekend of Southern Gospel Music

Williamsburg Gospel Barn presents some of the best in bluegrass and southern gospel music this weekend. Featuring the Williamsons of Wetumka, Oklahoma, the Steve Bruce Band of Lafollete, TN, and the WGB house band, on Saturday, November 1st at 6 PM. Admission is free. Doors now open at 5 PM.

FREE Soup Beans Dinner

A free soup beans dinner, with fried potatoes and cornbread and accompanied by the lively tunes of Rick Dye’s Bluegrass Band will be this Thursday October 30th at the Knox Association of Baptists

Building, 10419 Hwy 25, in Gray. (From Barbourville, drive two miles past Gillam Hill on the left.)

Dinner and the band will start at 6:00 p.m. with a free movie, popcorn, and drinks at 7:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with family, friends, and neighbors and enjoy a relaxing evening filled with good food, live entertainment, and a movie, all at no cost!

No appointment is necessary.

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