

Make A Note

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SAINT SEBASTIAN PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION BEGINS
St. Sebastian preschool is now offering registration for the 2025-2026 session. Classes begin in September and will run through May.

Three-year-olds will attend Monday and Wednesday, and the four-year olds will attend Tuesday and Thursday, with the possibility of additional days as well.

Those interested can contact the school at 270-499-8960.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CALHOUN HARVEST DAY

This year's Calhoun Harvest Day will be from noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Myer Creek Park. The event is sponsored by the Calhoun Lions Club and will include vendors, food, music

and more.

CALHOUN CHIROPRACTIC CENTER WILL ONCE AGAIN HOST KIDS FEST

Calhoun Chiropractic Center is hosting the seventh annual Kids Fest from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Myer Creek Park. The event is free for kids ages preschool to fifth grade. Lunch will be provided. Free games, inflatable obstacle course, face painting, balloon animals, cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones, donut eating contests, tattoos, hair paint and more will be offered.

EXTENSION OFFICE HOSTING INDOOR PLANT SWAP IN SEPTEMBER

The McLean County Extension Office, located at 335 West Seventh St. in Cal-

houn, will be hosting an indoor plant swap event from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Sept. 9, at its facility.

"Discover extraordinary and unique plants to elevate your collection and captivate every plant enthusiast," states the event's informational flyer.

Anyone wanting to set up at the plant swap can call the extension office at 270-273-3690.

MCLEAN COUNTY JOINT PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION ANNOUNCES QUARTERLY MEETING

The McLean County Joint Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a quarterly meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the McLean County Courthouse in the Fiscal Courtroom. The public is welcome to attend.

GRADD SENIOR NUTRITION MENU

For seniors who are able and have transportation, a lunchtime meal will be provided at any of the four congregate meal sites in McLean County.

Meal service locations and times are as follows, 11:15 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at the McLean County Senior Citizens Center, 875 Walnut St. in Calhoun, 11:15 a.m. on Monday and Thursday at Island City Hall, 280 Adams Ave. in Island, 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday and Friday at Livermore City Hall, 105 West Third St. in Livermore and 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday at the Sacramento Fire Department, 75 Main St. in Sacramento.

If transportation is needed to one of those facilities, seniors should contact McLean County Senior Services.

Homebound seniors can

contact the GRADD Aging & Disability Resource Center at 1-800-928-9094 to determine eligibility for home-delivered meals.

Any questions should be directed to McLean County Senior Services.

There is no charge for the meal, but donations are accepted, and the suggested donation per meal is \$1.50.

Whole wheat products should be two slices or 2 oz. unless otherwise noted. A 1% milk should be served at each meal.

MONDAY
CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

TUESDAY
Chicken salad croissant, creamy cauliflower/broccoli salad, lettuce, tomato, apple sauce, baked potato chips

WEDNESDAY
Pork chop, green beans, sweet potatoes, cornbread, apple slices, chocolate pudding, margarine

THURSDAY
Bowtie pasta with sauce, broccoli, banana, breadstick, margarine

FRIDAY
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas, vanilla pudding, dinner roll, ketchup

DIETARY TIP
Include whole grains in your diet. You need at least 25 grams of fiber daily. It helps lower cholesterol and aids in digestion.

EXERCISE TIP
Exercise is an excellent way to lower stress and keep your blood pressure in check.

LAKE LEVELS

LAKE LEVELS AS OF AUGUST 20

Kentucky Lake (Upper)
Normal: 356.8 ft.
Present: 356.9 ft.
Change: +0.1 ft.
Temp: 90°

KENTUCKY LAKE (LOWER)

Normal: 302 ft.
Present: 303.3 ft.
Change: +1.3 ft.
Temp: 90°

LAKE BARKLEY (UPPER)

Normal: 356.8 ft.
Present: 357.2 ft.
Change: +0.4 ft.
Temp: 90°

LAKE BARKLEY (LOWER)

Normal: 302 ft.
Present: 304.8 ft.
Change: +2.8 ft.
Temp: 90°

RIVER STAGES AS OF AUGUST 20

Green River at Calhoun
Flood Stage: 23 ft.
Present: 10.13 ft.
Difference from flood stage: -12.87 ft.

GREEN RIVER AT PARADISE

Flood Stage: 380 ft.
Present: 364.33 ft.
Difference from flood stage: -15.67 ft.

DAME

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community on weekends or to put food on the table, for example. That's why this cause matters to me."

And as a way to help keep folks in McLean County for recreational purposes, Dame brought a proposal to the McLean County Public School (MCPS) Board during a luncheon on Tuesday, Aug. 19, asking the board to consider allowing the county government to utilize the fields at the county's schools for recreational purposes in exchange for maintaining the properties and providing assistance to the school system in "providing road salt and access to our trucks to the school system for maintenance to help when we have severe weather events, predominantly ice and snow, to help get the students back into class more quickly."

"If we want the county to continue to grow, there are two or three fundamental elements, I think personally, we need to address," Dame said. "One is outdoor recreation. We've made significant investments, and we'll continue to do so by utilizing grants and other special pools of funding, but, since our crews are already in the areas where the schools are located, why couldn't we utilize their facilities

and help each other?"

Dame said that there had been a handshake agreement between the two entities around 15 or 20 years ago, but "it just wasn't defined on paper."

The agreement with the school system would also help to provide the county government by providing the school system's maintenance staff to complete small jobs around the county facilities, such as the courthouse.

"I have struggled retaining a part-time maintenance staff member," Dame said. "And they have great maintenance staff within the school system. We don't have a lot of maintenance problems. It's usually just replacing things like light bulbs and fixtures, but it would save the county money on that side of things, and then I could use my other staff for larger jobs. This is a more creative way to solve the maintenance issues that we have to accomplish my ultimate goal of saving the county money."

The county currently has to contract out jobs such as fixture and light bulb replacement, he said, and that can run "around \$100 just to have someone come assess the issue."

"Why should the county go out and buy more land when we have these facilities in the cities that can be used?" Dame said. "We're already in those areas anyway, so we'd just

need to spruce up the fields and keep them maintained. We can also utilize grants for upkeep on the fields, and the county's insurance provides more affordable coverage than what the school system can get. Plus, the school system contracts out their mowing jobs, so by the county maintaining the fields, that could save the school's money, too."

The goal, Dame said, is to keep families in McLean County.

"It's bare bones economics. Every dollar spent in the county will rotate four times before it leaves. So we want (citizens) to stay here and spend their money. That's the ultimate goal," he said. "It helps our restaurants. It helps the gas stations, and it gives the opportunity for more to come in because they can see the growth in the county."

He also mentioned that the county has access to inmate work crews within each of the cities.

"So, if we get creative, though I'm not against hiring another maintenance person, but maybe I hire someone to manage these work crews to help with the upkeep at these facilities," he said. "These ball fields are a remnant of what the days past used to be. And they're still here."

Members of the MCPS school board expressed interest in obtaining more details about the proposed agreement.

VEHICLE

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inspector prior to submitting an application for registration of that vehicle to ensure that the vehicle meets all of the safety requirements listed in the bill. In addition, the bill sets fees of \$10 to register the vehicle as a special-purpose street-legal vehicle and \$25 as the inspection fee for the vehicle. The bill also authorizes the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KTC) to administer the "administrative regulations" set forth in the new statute.

McLean County Judge-Executive Curtis Dame said, "What's interesting is the discussion on reciprocity. It would work similarly to current vehicle registrations, where even if a vehicle isn't registered within McLean County, it could be legally driven here, or if it is registered in McLean County, it would be legal in other Kentucky counties."

Dame explained that the process to register such a vehicle is "detailed" and "more than just going to the sheriff's office for an inspection."

"It doesn't mean that a special-purpose vehicle can just be driven on the road. There's a process," he said. "And that process requires the vehicle to be registered and certified yearly and yearly taxes to be paid as well."

The applicant, according to McLean County Attorney Donna Dant, would be given a license plate similar to those found on motorcycles once the vehicle is registered.

The statute states that the KTC should be releasing specific regulations regarding the registration process and defining on which roadways the vehicles could be driven under the statute, but, Dant said, nothing has been released by the Cabinet as of the time of last Tuesday's Fiscal Court meeting.

"The key takeaway, also, is that if we pass this ordi-

nance, it would only pertain to county roadways, not specific cities. Each city would need to form its own permit process," Dame said.

He said that, to his knowledge, none of the surrounding counties have deviated from the wording and requirements listed in the Kentucky statute to limit access to specific roadways.

"I think the most important thing to consider is that, if we don't institute this process, that's registration money we could be giving to another county," Dame said. "Because a vehicle permitted in McLean County can then be taken to another Kentucky county and be considered street-legal to be used in that county."

Following a lengthy discussion amongst Dame, Dant, three of the McLean County magistrates and Sheriff Ken Frizzell, the Fiscal Court decided to table the discussion until Dant could create a more specific and formalized ordinance for consideration.

FISCAL

FROM PAGE A1

could decide to leave the tax rate the same as last year, or even to stick with the predetermined compensation rate, but he ultimately wants to keep the county government from having to raise rates drastically in the future to accommodate increased county bills due to the increased costs associated with providing insurance and raises to county employees and for services such as utilities, which increase for the county just like they do for residents.

Before these changes to the tax rates take effect, Fiscal Court is required to have a public hearing to discuss the matter and then present that information during a Fiscal Court meeting for both a first and second reading. Dame said that the public hearing typically takes place 30 minutes prior to the start of the regularly scheduled Fiscal Court meeting.

He said that the county government, to avoid a significant increase in expenses, is also looking at ways to cut county bills.

"This year we negotiated a contract to haul trash

to the transfer site, which has saved the county around \$30,000 from last year and gives us additional funds to utilize for increases in utilities, water, insurance and employee benefits," he said. "The government is no different than private industry. When inputs increase, we have to try to either adjust expenditures, which we have and will continue to do so, or slightly adjust the revenue stream to keep us steady."

"And I will give credit to our local PVA office. They're very good at doing comprehensive reviews, taking into account market fluctuations and changes," Dame said.

But, he emphasized, the true effects of the spring's historic, county-wide flooding won't be seen until next fiscal year.

"There's kind of a little dark cloud hanging over my head, but my goal is that once we get these properties that have been impacted by the flood cleaned up, we'll see those properties come back into the equation as people can build back and build newer, which will increase the revenue that can be gained," Dame said.

But Dame wants to make sure that, while the actual rate is decreasing, "it is

considered an increase. We're not going to gloss it over and say that it is not going to generate less revenue. No, it will, but I think it will be a wash, and we'll stay where we are. Even though it looks like our gross revenue is higher, and it is dollar-wise, so are our expenses. And I'm not talking about wishful spending. I'm talking about things that keep the county government operating smoothly, while providing all of the services that our residents are accustomed to seeing."

Dame said that he wants to be mindful of the "impact that any substantial increase would have, and that's why we're trying to be good stewards, and just (increase revenue) a little bit everywhere, that way it doesn't hurt any certain category of property owner really hard."

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