

News-Democrat & LEADER

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Fiscal Court discusses proposed park amid public concerns

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

The Logan Fiscal Court held a public hearing Tuesday morning to gather comments on its intent to finance a new Logan County Park, drawing criticism from some citizens over the timing of the meeting.

Pat Bell, a Russellville Council member attending as a private citizen, voiced concern that the 9 a.m. hearing time limited pub-

lic attendance.

Former Logan County Clerk Scottie Harper attended the meeting and expressed support for a park but had concerns about the specific plan due to limited taxpayer knowledge. He requested another hearing, possibly after hours, to ensure greater public participation.

Baker apologized for the inconvenient hearing time, explaining that while the time

was set, requests for an evening meeting arose later. Rescheduling, he noted, would have required additional time for proper newspaper notification. Baker admitted the court had been “somewhat quiet on the engineering side” as they awaited engineer input.

The fiscal court voted in March 2024 to purchase 241.5 acres for the future park. District 6 Magistrate Thomas

Bouldin made the unanimous motion to acquire the land from H&H Sheet Metal for \$15,000 per acre. At the time, Bouldin stated, “For over eight years, this county government has entertained the idea and looked at potential sites for a park.”

The proposed park site fronts Nashville Road between the former Northern Nursery property and the Community Health Center of Western Kentucky on

U.S. 431 South. It also has frontage along the bypass toward and along U.S. 100. Deeds filed at the county clerk’s office indicate H&H Sheet Metal purchased two tracts in September 2020 and two more in October 2021 for a combined \$1,473,000. However, only three of those tracts are part of the potential deal with the county.

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UNEXPECTED KISSES



Submitted

Isla Shoemake gets an unexpected kiss from her pal Angel while playing this summer. Isla is the daughter of Daniel and Amanda Shoemake of Auburn.

Meacham goes to bat for girls’ softball

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

If you have a son playing Little League in Logan County, you may already know about Greg Meacham. Over the past two years, he has worked diligently, with much assistance, to rebuild the Little League program in Russellville. Now, he’s turning his passion for the game toward a new initiative.

Meacham attended Tuesday’s Fiscal Court meeting and the Russellville City Council meeting to request their support in his next project: rebuilding the lower field at the City-County Park for girls’ softball.

Meacham has been in contact with an engineer to discuss critical repairs to the field and waterway to ensure safety and is currently awaiting quotes for the necessary work.

After Meacham’s presentation, Judge-Executive Phil Baker stated

that once Meacham had quotes, he’d like to sit down with him to talk. Then, Baker offered to bring it back to the court to “see if the court can find anything to help with this project” to address Meacham’s request.

To make his vision for the girls’ softball program a reality, Meacham has applied for grants and is seeking funding to improve the park, stating, “it’s all for the benefit of the children.” He also emphasized the importance of ensuring the city and the council supported his efforts.

Meacham plans to establish a separate board for the softball program if he can improve the field quickly. He mentioned his nine-year-old granddaughter, saying, “She doesn’t have 10 or 15 years to wait for a park.” He believes that if he secures funding to repair the field now, he

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Project traces USCT soldiers’ postwar lives and legacy beyond battlefield

BY DENISE SHOULDERS
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

As communities prepare for once-in-a-lifetime celebrations commemorating the 250th anniversary of our nation’s birth, one local group is working to identify an often-overlooked group of servicemen.

Michael Morrow, Director of the SEEK Museum, recently received a \$10,000 America250! grant to research the members of the Civil War-era U.S. Colored Troops from Logan County.

Morrow explained that

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Collision in Auburn results in fatality

BY ND&L STAFF

A Russellville woman died Thursday after her car struck the rear of a tractor-trailer on U.S. 68 East, according to the Logan County Sheriff’s Office.

Alexa Stearsman, 42, was pronounced dead at the scene by the Logan County Coroner.

The collision occurred around 8:21 p.m. at the Auburn railroad crossing. A

preliminary investigation indicates Stearsman, driving a westbound 2021 Chrysler 200, hit the back of a tractor-trailer operated by Ihor Handzyuk, 56, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Handzyuk’s truck was stopped behind a hazardous material tanker, which is required to stop at all railroad crossings.

Authorities said inattention and speed are believed to be contributing factors in the crash.

The Logan County Sheriff’s Office was assisted by Logan County EMS, Auburn Fire Department, Logan County Coroner’s Office, Logan County Chaplain Services and the Logan County Emergency Communications Center.



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OBITUARIES

Diana Lynn Coles, 60
Alexa Jane Stearsman, 42
Clyde William Boggs Jr., 61

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LOW, 75
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