OBITUARY

Ronald F. Wachter, 84

GOSHEN - Ronald F Wachter, age 84, of Goshen, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Friday,



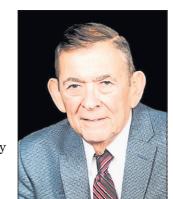
Aug. 8, 2025, at home. He was born on July 18, 1941,

to the late Reinder and Mary (Glozik) Wachter in Granite City, Ill.

Ron was a devoted member of St. Bernadette Catholic Church and a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corp. Ron worked for Air Products, retiring after 40+ years as a Plant Superintendent. He enjoyed working out at the YMCA Buckner, spending time with family, and meeting with friend groups. Another love of Ron's was taking annual Spring Break trips with his family to the beach and visiting his family back in Granite City.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Joan Alene Wachter, who went to be with the Lord just this last April and his brother, David Wachter.

Left to cherish the memory of Ron are his daughters, Michelle Cave (Emil) and Susan Gregory (Tom); grandchildren,



Ronald Wallace (Raine), Michael Hart (Danielle), Mason Gregory and Emma Gregory; great-grandchildren, Jeremiah Hart, Delilah Hart and Russell Wallace; and extended family and friends.

A Mass in memory of Ron will be held at St. Bernadette Catholic Church at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2025, with a time of gathering starting at 10 a.m. until the start of the service. Burial with military funeral honors will take place in Floydsburg Cemetery in Crestwood following Mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Susan G Komen in Ron's memory.

Heady-Radcliffe Funeral Home & Cremation Services

HERALD

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chaotic; on the professional side, I love it. It's very easy to settle in. Everybody in this district has made my transition very smooth.

Q: What grade is your younger son, Luke, in and where which school will he attend?

A: He will be a sophomore. He's going to go to Oldham County High School and he will spend part of his day at Arvin [Education Center] and then he will be at the high school for the rest of the day. His true passion is bass fishing, so he's excited to be on the bass fishing team.

Q: You previously worked in Grant County Schools, is that where you grew up?

A: I actually grew up in Washington County, so I grew up in Springfield, Ky. graduated from high school there, went to the University of Kentucky and received my first bachelor's and master's degree.

Q: Can you tell me about your history as an educator?

A: My very first year of teaching, I was emergency certified and taught at Nicholas County. I was at an elementary-middle school and taught special education. In my second year of teaching, I began teaching at Grant County High School. I taught agriculture there for four years, moved into the assistant principal role of the high school for one, and then I served as high school principal there for eight — and truly loved that position. I loved my definite connection with students.

After eight years there, I then transitioned to the board office where I spent nine years. So, I started off as director of pupil personnel. Then, over time with Senate Bill 1 changes for school safety, I became the assistant superintendent as the safe schools coordinator. And then spent my last year as deputy superintendent with all previous jobs still, but added human resources. So I did a lot of things in nine years in that district.

Q: What made you want to go into education in the first place?

A: Well, it's actually funny ... In high school, I would say probably my sophomore year, I just

knew I was going to be a respiratory therapist education was not even in my mind. I started off and did my prereqs at LCC, Lexington Community College, and then started the respiratory therapy program, and that changed. So, 20 years old, two and a half years in, I had to do a lot of soul searching and I actually had a friend suggest coming into the College of Agriculture and being a high school ag teacher. I did not grow up on a farm, was not an FFA in high school, but really, when I reflect back to every part-time job I had in high school, I either worked on a farm or worked in a greenhouse locally. So, I went into the College of Ag and loved

every minute of it. From there, I truly credit my educational experience — I had a former assistant principal at the high school. When I went on maternity leave, he called and said, "would you consider applying for the AP job?" I had just graduated with my principal certification — had never given it thought. He very much said, "I'll help you with the interview," and, from there, he really mentored me to show me what leadership was really about. I fell in love with leadership. The great thing about leadership is that you still get to be with kids as much as you want in your daily job. I love seeing our students grow. I love being able to touch all aspects of education that way - it really developed a passion for me in the educational sense.

Q: Do you have any family members who are educators as well? Did they influence you to go into education?

A: I have an older brother, he was actually an elementary PE teacher, and he's a school bus driver. He has done that probably way over 25 years. And he continues to drive a school bus and has his route that he does every day — he loves the elementary population for sure. He is five years older than me so, growing up, before I got to high school he was starting college. He always knew he was going to be a football coach, so he went in from that angle and really had a passion for that and then got into education from there. So, [yes], from a distance. Now, we're extremely close. In fact, he called last night

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Fiscal Court pays additional \$30K for Allen Lane railroad underpass

Allen Lane, Highway 393 underpasses to go out to bid in October

BY GRANT GERSTNER

The Oldham County Fiscal Court unanimously agreed to pay an additional \$30,000 for the design phase of the Allen Lane railroad underpass and hopes to see the project go out to bid in October alongside a railroad underpass on Highway 393.

County Engineer Jim Silliman brought the cost increase before the court and explained that it is "primarily resulting from continued review and coordination with CSX [Transportation]," the corporation that largely controls railroad shipping throughout the eastern side of the U.S.

"The CSX railroad has to be realigned when this underpass ... is built and then put back on its existing tracks. There's been significant coordination with CSX to make sure their current requirements are addressed."

Though the project requires an additional \$150,000 total, the fiscal court has previously agreed to a 20% match with the federal government and will only need to contribute "about \$30,000," Silliman said.

"Unfortunately, we weren't aware of this when we were working on the fiscal year [2026-2027] budget, so it's not in the budget, but I do think there are other line items that we could budget or balance to create this amount."

Magistrate Kevin Jeffries, who is the chair of the Road Committee, first made the motion to approve, saying that "this is a project, along with [Highway] 393, that has been stretched out here a lot longer than we were all hoping for."

When asked about the timeline on the project, Silliman explained that "the intent had been for Allen Lane to be let for construction in July of 2025. Obviously, it's August ... And the 393 realignment, which is a similar project — an underpass and realignment of that road — was going to be let about a year later.

"The leadership in Frankfort has reviewed these two projects and have made us aware that what they'd like to do now is let both projects at the same time in Octo-

"We're going to continue to coordinate with the project manager at the KYTC [Kentucky Transportation Cabinet] to see how this affects the potential maintenance of traffic and other concerns."

According to the Kentuckiana Regional Planning & Development Agency's 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, the project will be open to the public sometime in 2026 and will involve a widening of Allen Lane between Highway 146 and Commerce Parkway aligning across from the Interstate 71 overpass.

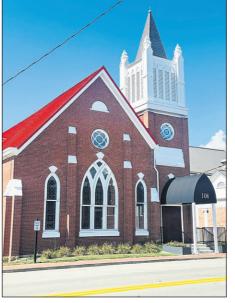
Aside from traffic management, the project will allow for "enhanced safety as emergency vehicles will be able to bypass the rail line," the program reads.

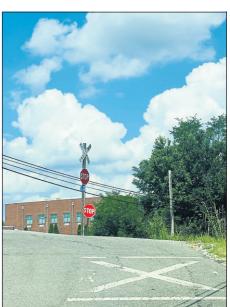
Magistrate Chris Haunz asked if any other cost increases could be expected in the future and Silliman answered



Photo by Grant Gerstner

Jay McDowell, pictured seated in the center, is resigning from the media director position with the county government after having produced over 2,000 videos of county events and news alongside the regular broadcasting of county government meetings.





Photos by Jane Ashley Pace

Left: Oldham County's new community center, the renovated former Methodist church next to the fiscal court building has been named "Chapel 1888." The event space is available for rent through Oldham County Parks and Recreation. Right: The railroad crossing at Allen Lane nearing Highway 146 in La Grange, the upcoming construction site of a long-awaited railroad underpass.

that, while cost increas- news updates. es are expected for any project, "Oldham County is not responsible for the right-of-way, utility or construction phases ...

"Your commitment is only for design, and we county's media and techare at the very end of it nology — even during a October ... You're looking at a \$24-25 million meaningful, I think, and project once everything together we helped give is done and the fiscal Oldham County a voice court has been respon- and I'm proud to have sible for 20% of design been part of the story," only."

Silliman also said that there has been an \$11 million increase in the construction phase that the county will not have to contribute funds towards.

"A lot of this delay can be attributed to CSX," Jeffries added. "They're kind of the controlling agency here because they have to sign off and they have extended this project — both [Highway] 393 and Allen Lane - a lot farther out than what we hoped for."

In other news, the court gave well wishes to Media Director Jay McDowell, who is resigning and moving to West Virginia to "be closer to family and friends, and begin a new chapter" as a news director for WOWK in Charleston,

As Media Director, McDowell has been in charge of streaming and recording the fiscal Development meetings, as well as producing videos of many of the county's largest events, grand openings and

"When we started this, we created a program that's lasted 12 years. We've produced more than 2,000 shows and videos, modernized the this should be let in global pandemic ... We built something truly said McDowell.

Judge Executive David Voegele and many of the magistrates thanked McDowell for his great work over the years, said that they would miss him and wished him the best of luck.

The court also conducted a first reading of a proposed zoning map amendment for Chateau Cherise, i.e. Cherry House, a home furnishings retailer in La Grange that closed in

The amendment is to change the zoning from C-1, Local Business District, to C-4, Highway Service District, which is intended to provide "suitable locations for general commercial businesses that require heavy infrastructure," the Oldham County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance reads.

A public hearing and second reading will be held at the court's court and Planning and next meeting on Aug. 19, where Planning and Development will provide a presentation before the court votes on whether to approve or

deny the zoning amendment.

The court also

approved the following: A new medical contract for the Oldham County Detention Center with Southern Health Partners, who has provided the detention center medical services for the past 25 years. Due to a reduction in mental health hours, the contract will cost \$745,989 — providing for the detention center's full-time medical technical assistant. two day-shift nurses, two night-shift nurses, and a mental health nurse.

A fire alarm monitoring contract for the new courthouse, which requires a signature from the court before the system is activated. No charge is currently associated with the activation for the first year. as the cost was included with the purchase and installation.

The reappointment of Magistrate Bob Dye to the Oldham-La Grange **Development Authority** (OLDA), which presides over the development of Oldham Reserve, a shared development project in La Grange. Dye's term will expire July 16, 2029.

The appointment of Laura Tapp to the Board of Adjustments and appeals to fulfill the unexpired term of recently resigned Larry Otterback, expiring Jan. 17, 2028. Tapp is the Executive Director of

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Auction August 30th, 2025 12:00 Noon 2008 Black Hummer H3

> Owned by: Chad Thornsberry Ashley Thornsberry 10660 Highway 421 N Milton, KY 40045 Don Hedges Towing 3201 W. Hwy.146 La Grange, KY 40031

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