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Carwash to Re-open & Courthouse preparing for May Election

& other OC Fiscal Court Notes

The Owsley County Fiscal Court met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2026. The meeting was called to order by County Judge Zeke Little. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Then an Opening Invocation was given. A motion was made and carried to suspend the reading of the prior month's minutes. Linda Thomas, Secretary, gave the monthly Treasurer's Report.

The General Fund has a cash balance of \$427,527.05, the Road Fund has a cash balance of \$1,203,769.77, the Jail Fund has a cash balance of \$3,297.83 and the LGEA Fund has a cash balance of \$10,610.12. The Solid Waste Fund has a cash balance of \$42,515.14, the Parks & Rec Fund has a cash balance of \$1,700.11, the LGEDF Fund has a cash balance of \$18,984.01 and the Clerk Storage Fund has a cash balance of \$8,614.47. The Opioid Fund has a cash balance of \$133,134.17, the Land Acquisition Fund has a cash balance of \$16,449.32 and the EKYSAFE Fund has a cash balance of \$406,075.56. A motion was made and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Judge Exec. Little asked the court if they would like to renew the contracts for the Electrical Inspector. "Calvin Saum and Todd Lindon are the two inspectors that we use. We just need to renew their contracts. If there is anyone else that would like to be on our list, then they need to get in touch with us." A motion was made and carried to renew their contracts.

Judge Exec. Little said, "we need to ta-



ble the Harrison Road discussion because we need the county attorney here for that discussion. He continued, "we have a HVAC company that comes and services the courthouse every year. Appalachian Heating and Cooling is the name of this company. We have a different company that services the Rec Center. The ones that service the Rec Center asked about doing the courthouse as well. We have a good working relationship with Appalachian Heating and Cooling and we get good service from them." A motion was made and carried to stay with Appalachian Heating and Cooling.

"I asked Austin (County Clerk) to bring the list of candidates for the upcoming election. She is going to read them to us," said Judge Little. Austin Bowling read the list to the court. (The list is inside this edition.)

"The next order of business is the Road Foreman's Report," said Judge Exec. Little. He continued, "we are down a garbage truck right now. Magistrate Jason Reed asked if there was any word on the new truck. Judge Little explained that they should have it tomorrow so maybe next month. "They said the truck is already there but they are finishing the bed. We have graveled

a lot of roads getting them ready for winter." Both Linda Thomas and Judge Exec. Little said that Solid Waste is doing good.

"The next order of business is the Sheriff's Budget," said Judge Exec. Little. The Budget Proposal was presented by Teresa Preston, Secretary, and presented that included the maximum amount for the deputies and sheriff. She also had everything that was taken in and paid out in 2025. A motion was made and carried to accept the Sheriff's Budget Proposal for 2026.

Austin presented a Budget for the County Clerk's Office. She said, "hopefully by next month I will have excess fees to turn over to you. I am waiting on a few places to cash some checks. I did put more on overtime because this is an election year." A motion was made and carried to accept the County Clerk's Budget. A motion was made and carried to do Transfers as needed. A motion was made and carried to pay all legally incurred bills. Judge Exec. Little informed the court that the old Fast Lane Building has been removed. He also said that the car wash should be open by the end of the month.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Booneville Lodge Honors Gary Cap Deaton



The hall of Booneville Masonic Lodge #939 was filled with a sense of history and fraternal pride on Monday, January 12, 2026, as members gathered to celebrate a rare and significant milestone: the 50th anniversary of Gary Roger Cap Deaton's membership. For five decades, Deaton has been a steady presence within the Lodge, a journey that began during a bicentennial year. Deaton's Masonic journey began in the spring of 1976. Records from the Lodge illustrate a

dedicated progression through the degrees of Freemasonry: Entered Apprentice: March 8, 1976, Fellow Craft: May 10, 1976, and Master Mason: September 18, 1976.

Completing his degrees in just six months, "Cap" established a commitment to the craft that has remained unbroken for 50 continuous years. While his brothers at Booneville Lodge know him for his fidelity and service, many other Owsley County residents remember Deaton in a different, yet equally influential role.

Before he was a Gold Card member of the Lodge, he was a fixture in the local school system. For generations of local citizens, Gary Deaton was the teacher who guided them through the formative days of their youth. His dual legacy as an educator and a Mason reflects a life dedicated to the betterment of his neighbors and the molding of future generations.

To reach 50 years of continuous service is a testament to a man's character, noted one Lodge member during the presentation. Cap has seen this Lodge and Owsley County go through many changes while remaining a constant example of what it means to be a Mason. As Deaton accepts his 50-year pin, he joins an elite group of men who have dedicated a half-century to the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

BREATHITT RIDES 3-POINT BARRAGE TO ALL 'A' WIN AT OWSLEY



By Deron Mays- Breathitt County put on a 3-point shooting exhibition at the Palace in Booneville last Wednesday night, defeating Owsley County 83-61 and propelling themselves to the semifinals of the regional All 'A' Classic this weekend at Alice Lloyd College. The Bobcats ended the game with twelve treys, some of which were well behind the arc by several feet. The Bobcats' Payton Collins nailed four 3-pointers in the first half and finished the game with six. Austin McGinnis also connected on two treys in the first half. 6'4 center Danny Kayatin came up big as well, scoring on mid-range jumpers and offensive rebounds. Breathitt ran out to a 42-14 halftime lead.

The Owls fared much better in the second half and actually outscored their opponent 47-40, but the first-half deficit was simply too much to overcome. Keegan Herald led the Owls' scoring with 18 points, and Jarred Napier scored 16. Also in double figures were Chase Pryse and Jordan McCoy, each with 10 points. Others scoring were Daniel Caudell with 4, Bryson Bowling with 2, and Kelton Smith with 1. Breathitt's top scorer was Payton Collins with 20 points. Austin McGinnis had 19 points, Danny Kayatin 14, Jagger Burton 7, Jaron Fugate 7, Aiden Combs 6, Nathan Chapman 3, and Caleb Neace, Ethan Sizemore, and Jake Fugate had 2 apiece.

LADY OWLS FALL TO BREATHITT IN ALL 'A' REGION

Owsley County knew their second-round game in the Regional All A Classic with Breathitt County would be a challenge, and it was. The taller, deeper, and more experienced Lady Cats, who started four juniors and a sophomore, were slow out of the gate and led 11-8 at the end of the opening quarter. However, they picked up the pace in the second quarter and slowly increased their lead to 26-12 at halftime. Owsley had trouble scoring in the first half, with the exception of sophomore guard Delaney Smith, who scored all 12 of the Lady Owls' points in the first half. Breathitt had another big quarter in the third period, winning that one 17-8. The teams played close in the last quarter, with the Lady Cats winning the period 18-17. The final score was 61-37.

Owsley had two double-digit scorers in the game, with Delaney Smith totaling 23 and junior center Kamilla Marcum finding her touch in the last half scoring 11. Only two other players scored, with Harley Dooley scoring 2 points and Kiley Taylor 1. Breathitt was led in scoring by their junior center Macey Brown with 22 points. Sophomore guard Lexi Combs added 19 points. Tenley Hayes scored 11 points, Charlie Stacey 6, and Harper Allen scored 3. The Lady Cats move on to the semifinals at Alice Lloyd College to face Hazard, who was a winner Wednesday over Knott Central. The first round of the semifinals are Friday night, and the championship game is Saturday night.

George Johnson Named to SNHU President's List

George Johnson of Booneville (41314) has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2025 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

