



The Casey County News

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Fiscal court talks roads

BY CHARLIE VANLEUVEN
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The Casey County Fiscal Court in a special called meeting March 5 approved removing one road from its maintenance inventory, accepted a bid to replace a box culvert on another road, and heard news about \$1.4 million in potential road aid.

According to Judge/Executive Randy Dial, the Kentucky Legislature approved a House Joint Resolution to fix all roads rated as 8, 9, or 10.

Those three numbers on a scale of 1 through 10 constitute the worst roads in the county (as determined by state evaluators). The total road aid that could come to Casey County's road department is \$1,398,000.

Dial said that he would announce

which roads qualified after the money was for certain.

"If you've got any connections at all to your Senator, Brandon Storm, it wouldn't hurt to give him a call, because it's now in the hands of the senate," he said. "I believe it's going to happen but it takes a Senate vote on that."

Dial said that every one of those roads determined to be Casey County's worst of the worst would take more than a simple resurfacing. It could take some time, possibly stretching into next year, before the money is spent.

"There's going to be a lot of prep work that goes into it, so there's a good chance that if this happens, me, Robby (Murphy) and Bart (Woodrum) won't be here to see

them get paid," Dial said.

The first item on the agenda was a public hearing on the removal of Roy's Mill Road from the county inventory. Dial said in a prior meeting that this road had been considered for removal for several years, and a committee agreed that it served no public purpose.

Dial explained in the meeting that the road is not accessible by regular traffic.

"It's flooded so many times over the years that it's not even passable except on a side-by-side or a four-wheeler or something like that," Dial said. "So, it's always been my worry that the way people rely on Google Maps, and Siri, and all those things that people rely on for directions, that the road is on the

books. So if somebody does listen to their phone telling them where to turn, and they turn on that road. If someone's hurt or there's property damage, I think there's a chance of the county having liability for that."

All property owners along the road have agreed to remove the road from inventory.

After returning to regular session after the public hearing, Magistrate Robby Murphy moved to remove the road, while Magistrate Bart Woodrum seconded. The motion was approved 3-0 with Magistrate Cecil Roy absent due to illness.

Prior to that vote, the magistrates also voted 3-0 to award a bid to Hornback Construction Company to install a new box culvert on Upper Brush Creek Road.

Dial said that there were three inquiries about the job, but only one company submitted a bid.

The new box culvert will help keep flood water off the road.

"One we replace that, by the fall we should be able to repave those approaches to that," Dial said.

Also in the meeting, Dial shared more good news that the county's insurer, KACO or Kentucky Association of Counties, will return a dividend to the county. He said that changing to KACO was a good move in the past, as it has saved the county money and now is paying them a dividend.

The regular meeting of the Casey County Fiscal Court would normally be scheduled for March 16 at 5 p.m.

Forkland holds 21st pie auction

BY CHARLIE VANLEUVEN
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The 21st Annual Old Fashioned Pie Supper and Spaghetti Dinner attracted more than 200 people to eat, visit, and bid for a chance at some dessert.

The seating area in the Forkland Community Center was full. A line for spaghetti stretched around a full half of the gymnasium perimeter. Some guests got up, after eating, to allow others to use the tables.

Even so, there were several people who ate at the bleachers, turned around and using the lowest seats as a makeshift table. The meal was a spaghetti dinner, with a breadstick, salad with dressing, and choice of beverage.

Dessert wasn't guaranteed. The offerings of sweet treats were for a price, and the table holding them was packed. A total of 74 dessert items were set to be auctioned off to just as many guests (more than 70) with bid numbers. Some prized desserts fetched hundreds of dollars.

The Ridgeline, a bluegrass band, played lively music for an hour and a half. They featured Roger Followell on mandolin, Joe Conder as lead singer and guitarist, Dean Carpenter on the banjo, Freddie Edwards on the fiddle and harmonica, and Blake Carpenter on the upright bass.

Willie Baker handled the auction duties this year as several young ladies brought out each dessert, one by one, for all to get a good look at.

The oldest baker was again



By Charlie VanLeuven

SEE FORKLAND/PAGE A3 A young volunteer carries a pie up for bid around to seated guests.

Paws & Purrs Project addressing pet population

BY CHARLIE VANLEUVEN
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The Casey County Paws & Purrs Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit under the umbrella of Casey County 4-H, seeks to raise awareness of stray animal populations, and to reduce offspring through spaying and neutering dogs and cats.

At a meeting Feb. 24, members discussed progress made and upcoming events.

The group was established in October 2025 among animal advocates who seek to do more than just talk about a problem. The group raises funds and has partnered with Casey County Veterinary Services to help cover the cost of spay and neuter surgeries, medications, vaccines, and other pet care.

The group does not trap or foster stray animals. Instead, the organization helps aid those from Casey County who might foster an animal, and who has difficulty paying for the medical care.

In considering the bylaws, member Meagan Foust said

that the requirement is that the now-owner or foster pays \$25 for each cat or \$30 for each dog, and Paws & Purrs will handle the rest. Even so, she acknowledged that some might take advantage.

"We want to help the animals that are rescued, but there's no way to guarantee that those animals that they're bringing in have been rescued," she said.

However, most of those who might ask for help are also involved in the fostering community, and funds will be disbursed on the honor system.

Member Pat Stewart said that she believed in honesty, and she made a motion to approve the bylaws, which were unanimously approved.

In speaking about the problems in the community, members said that there were several feral cat colonies in the city limits of Liberty, while several dogs at large or stray dogs were out in the county.

Stewart said that a recent TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) program conducted over a period of years had

SEE PAWS/PAGE A2

Remains of missing man found

BY CHARLIE VANLEUVEN
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A month-long search came to an end after a farmer discovered remains in a pond near Deany Vanoy Road in Casey County on March 7.

Jacob Ring, 28, was last seen alive on Jan. 22, prior to the big ice storm, in Casey County near the Crockett Trail area. His body was found approximately a mile west from the intersection of KY 70 and KY 206.

Liberty-Casey County Rescue Squad Chief Brandon Long confirmed that a farmer was spreading manure on

the field on Saturday, in preparation to plant corn, and discovered what he thought was a body in a pond.

The discovery of Ring's body came one week after major operations were deployed to search for Ring.

On Feb. 28, the Liberty-Casey County Rescue Squad, along with Casey County Emergency Management, Somerset Fire and Rescue, K9 units, drones, law enforcement, EMS, and members of the public from Maysville, conducted a search around the intersection of KY 70/KY 206 and fanned out around the surrounding areas.



Jacob Ring

The discovery of Ring's body came one week after major operations were deployed to search for Ring.

Although the search was extensive, covering over 100 walked miles, no remains or verified personal effects were found at that time.

Anyone with information on what happened prior to Ring's death is encouraged to contact the Casey County Sheriff's Office at (606) 787-6821. Individuals can submit anonymous tips at (606) 787-0288.

Briefs

From staff reports

HAPPENINGS

- The Liberty-Casey County Chamber of Commerce will hold its next luncheon at 12 p.m. March 11 at the Central Kentucky Ag/Expo Center.
- A Spring Consignment Auction will be held at 9 a.m. March 14 at South Fork Produce Auction on South Fork Creek Road.
- The first day of Spring is March 20.
- A Spring Consignment Auction will also be held March 21 at the Central Kentucky Ag/Expo Center.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- The Casey County Public Library District Board will meet at 10:30 a.m. March 11 in the community room of the library.
- The Casey County Extension District Board will meet at 8:30 a.m. March 18 in the extension office.
- A vendors' meeting for the Casey County Farmers Market will be at 5 p.m. March 24 at the extension office.
- Casey County ASAP will meet at 11:30 a.m. March 26 in Liberty City Hall.

INSIDE TODAY



INSIDE TODAY
Spring Sports preview on pages A6, B1, and B3

INDEX

OPINION, A4
LOCAL NEWS, A2-3
OBITUARIES, A2
CALENDAR, A2

PUBLIC RECORDS, B4-5
SPORTS, B3, B6
CLASSIFIEDS, B5

OBITUARIES

LINDA BRYANT, 67
GLEN BUIS, 74
ELIZABETH GARRETT, 85

LARRY GRIDER, 83
TERRILL WARE, 88



6 84578 20440 6