

Gallatin County News

An Independent Weekly Newspaper

Vol. C No. 35

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

75 cents



Firefighters in training

Under the careful eye of Assistant Chief Travis Simpson (left), young Gallatin County volunteer firemen learn now to attack and extinguish a growing fire. The firemen train every Monday night to be prepared when disaster strikes. Photo by Kelley Warnick

Mail-in voting won't be changed

Despite some efforts in Washington D.C. to curtail or end mail-in voting, County Clerk Christina McEntire says she expects all mail-in ballots in Gallatin County to be counted as they always have.

Voters will find all city councilmen, mayors, a race for Gallatin County Judge/

executive and other races on the ballot.

Among dates to remember are September 19, when the Online Absentee Portal opens to request an absentee ballot (govote.ky.gov). That portal closes at 11:59 p.m. on October 20. Excused in-person voting at the clerk's office takes place Octo-

ber 21, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No excuse early voting takes place on October 29, 30, and 31 at the clerk office.

Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Gallatin County's voting centers are located at the Ex-

tension Office in Warsaw, at the Sparta Baptist Church, at the Extension Building in Glencoe, at Paint Lick Baptist Church and at the Concord Fire Station.

October 5 is the last day to register to vote. Registered voters can cast their ballots at any of the county's five voting centers.

Checkpoints, fireworks for Labor Day

During the upcoming Labor Day weekend, the Kentucky State Police Post 5 in Campbellsburg, which provides coverage for Oldham, Henry, Trimble, Carroll, Gallatin, and Owen counties, will conduct traffic checkpoints at approved locations.

In Gallatin County, those traffic stops will be

located at US 42 at the Markland Dam, US 42 at US 127, US 42 at Milepost 6 to 7 East of Warsaw and at KY 1039 near the Markland Dam.

These checkpoints will be conducted in an effort to enforce traffic laws. Special attention will be paid to occupant protection (seatbelt adherence),

sobriety, insurance, and registration violations.

A complete list of traffic safety checkpoint locations can be found at <https://www.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/post-5checkpoints>.

If you're planning to attend the 50th Western and Southern/ WEBN Fireworks in Cincinnati on Sunday you can expect large crowds to gather along Covington's riverfront and at viewing spots throughout the City. To help ensure a safe and orderly event, the City of Covington and its Police Department are putting in place familiar restrictions addressing traffic, parking, and other activities.

The rules cover road closures, parking, alcohol, motorized scooters, and other safety concerns. The restrictions are similar to those in place in previous years, with a few minor changes.

The rules apply in

Devou Park and what's called the downtown Riverfest Impact Area – the area north of East Fourth Street between the Licking River and Madison Avenue, with a contiguous section from Madison to Johnson Street along West Rivercenter Boulevard (see attached map).

"Riverfest brings thousands of people to the riverfront and other locations with a view of the river," Covington Police Chief Justin Wietholter said. "We ask for everyone's patience as they navigate the pedestrian-filled roadways. Our goal is to have a fun and safe event so patrons can return for years to come."

To help people with disabilities access the Impact Area, police will have a cart and driver on site. People who need this service should contact the Command Center at 859-468-4604 when they arrive Sunday.

Deputy jailed for stalking, sexual abuse

Jason Walker hired in 2023

Gallatin County Deputy Sheriff Jason Walker was arrested on August 26, 2026, by officers from the Boone County Sheriff's Office and charged with sexual abuse, stalking, tampering with physical evidence and official misconduct. He was lodged at the Boone County Detention Center and held on \$100,000 bond.

Walker had been a Gallatin County deputy sheriff since 2023.

Boone County opened an investigation into Walker after receiving a request from Gallatin County Sheriff Bud Webster, who had taken a complaint from an unidentified Gallatin County woman.

The woman said that between May and August of 2026, Jason Walker contacted her under the guise of following up on a domestic violence case. The woman said Walker then continued to contact her, transitioning the conversation to more personal, and ultimately, romantic topics.

When the woman asked Walker to stop contacting her, she said he persisted and began to follow her and watch her at various locations around Gallatin County. Walker also allegedly utilized a law enforcement database to find additional personal information about the woman and let her know he had those, and other capabilities.

On one occasion, the woman said she agreed to meet Walker at a local gas station where he reached inside her vehicle and touched her in a sexual nature despite her attempt to move away from him. On another occasion, Walker allegedly

went to the woman's home where he forcibly touched her in a sexual nature while she attempted to stop him. During both instances, Walker was on duty and in full uniform.

It's believed Walker attempted to hide his communications and interactions with the woman by consistently deleting her from SnapChat and deleting her number from his call log. It's believed he also disabled his department issued vehicle's GPS system to hide when he was stalking or otherwise meeting the female.

"It's with great sadness and a heavy heart that I have to report this," Sheriff Webster said in a statement. "One of our own was taken into custody for allegations made against him by a resident. Deputy Walker has been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation. The initial complaint was brought to me as Sheriff. I requested Boone County Sheriff's Office handle the investigation to ensure the integrity of the investigation. I uphold the oath I took for this office very seriously and so do 99.9 percent of all law enforcement professionals who wear a badge every day. I apologize to our citizens for the discredit this brings to our county. I assure everyone all our staff members are committed to provide the best level of service we can possibly provide."

Walker appeared via Zoom in the Gallatin County District Court on Tuesday and pleaded not guilty to all charges. He's scheduled for a preliminary hearing next Tuesday at 10 a.m.



Jason Walker

Aunt Gert thinks I'm presidential

This and That

By Kelley Warnick
Editor

Monday morning, I opened the office door, stepped outside and headed for my truck. That's when a speeding neon-green moped slid to screeching stop in front of me.

"Get back inside," Aunt Gert ordered. "We have important business to discuss. I have plans for our futures"

She's not really my aunt, but that's what the county gossip calls herself. She was dressed like a woman half her age with a short mini-skirt, knee-high boots, a flimsy halter-top and bleached blond hair that resembled wind-blown straw.

I told her I didn't want to discuss any business with her because she was only interested in the sleazy side of life.

"Not anymore," Gert proclaimed.

"I'm a new woman with a new goal, which is to get you elected president and me hired as your Chief of Staff. We're going to rock the world"

I laughed in her face.

"Now, hear me out," Gert demanded.

"You and our current president have many things in common. Although he's a few years older, you both qualify for the senior citizen rate when you go to the movies. You both like fast moving machines although he prefers jet planes while you love your motorcycle. You both play golf, eating at McDonalds from time to time and from the looks of your wives, you both have an eye for the ladies. Yep, you have all the credentials."

Gert has had some outlandish schemes in the past but this one took the cake. I asked her why in world she thought I would want to get involved in politics?

"I already have your campaign planned out," Gert said. "I've got the bus rented and we'll hit the road tomorrow and head

to Iowa. South Carolina will be our next stop. The voters will love you."

I told Gert to forget it.

"No way, it's too perfect," she said. "You definitely have presidential credentials. The voters will love you. You and our current Commander in Chief are both bald, even though he hides it better. Neither of you fought in Vietnam because you were in college and his feet are flat. You've both had a little trouble with the law. We know his history but remember when you got a ticket doing 75 in a 55. Besides that, neither of you have any plans of leaving the job you have now. Your election is guaranteed."

I had enough. The last thing in the world I wanted to do was get into politics. I told Gert I'm not presidential material and don't want to be. I'm happy right where I am and have no plans to change anything. Besides, I love my dog too much to ever move to Washington D.C.