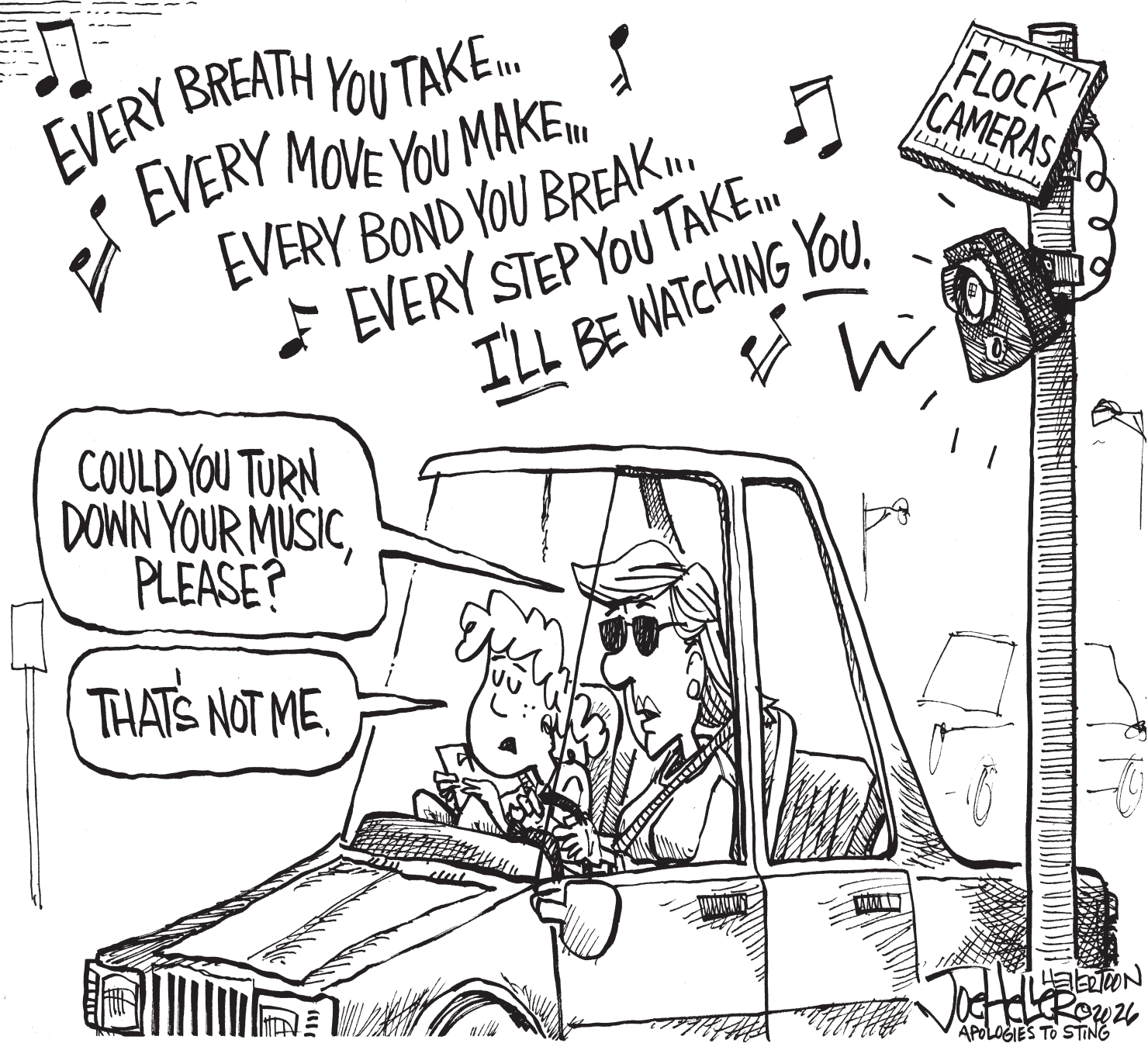


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The Herald News

OPINION

August 19, 2026



■FUNDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

hearing closed.

Judge/Executive Larry Wilson confirmed a quorum was present and the minutes from the July 23rd meeting were approved.

The first item on the agenda was the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Fiscal Year 2627 Rural Secondary Program, and Blake Williams with KYTC addressed the court.

Williams stated, “The projected allotment this year is \$858,847. We had a \$18,357 carryover from last year. So, we have total funds available of \$877,204.”

Item one is routine maintenance and traffic on 111.440 rural secondary road miles in the county. So, \$3,082 a mile, the total is \$343,500.”

“Item two is our project for this year, four miles of Kentucky 1243, Knob Lick Road, beginning at the intersection with US 68 (MP 0.000), extending north at the intersection with Kentucky 543 (MP 4.086). That project’s estimated cost is \$447,819.”

“Item three is flex funds, which is 10% of the initial distribution. This year it’s \$85,885.”

Chamber Of Commerce

Representing the Edmonton Metcalfe Chamber of Commerce was vice president Tareena Horton, who stated, “It’s a well-known fact that the Chamber of Commerce serves the county and the city to the highest levels. We handle all the festivals, all parades, and in the promotion of business and economics in the county... So why I’m coming here today is because we do receive \$10,000 from the county for expenses, because we are a nonprofit... I have witnessed members of the chamber board dipping into their own pockets to provide the things that we need to provide for these festivals and events.”

Horton then stated, “I would like to ask for \$30,000 for this year to fill our coffers and try to make a way to make us generate more income for ourselves plus be able to pay our director a livable wage.”

Judge Wilson proposed, “We raise the amount of our quarterly payments for the rest of 2026... See what the city gives, see where the chamber is in January... and then we can adjust...”



▲ PHOTO | PJ MARTIN
Edmonton Metcalfe Chamber of Commerce vice president Tareena Horton spoke to the court about chamber finances.

A motion was made by Magistrate Daniel Bragg to raise the quarterly contribution for the next two quarters to \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Magistrate Kevin Crain, and approved.

The next item on the agenda was Jaxon’s Legacy Presentation, a sober living facility in Cumberland County that serves Metcalfe. They were not present, so they will be rescheduled.

FEMA Update

Next was an EUDS update from John Phelps. “Progress is being made on a little spreadsheet of some funds that can be moved over from the federal funds account. Those projects are completed.”

“In addition to that, the ice storm... everything as far as I know has been obligated on that. You guys had a lot of debris, receiving 96,000 dollars in the year-old’s cost. You figure time and the cost of cleaning up is about \$16,000 or somewhere in that. So, 75% plus your 12% state reimbursement should be roughly at \$96,000... You all can move that money immediately over to your revenue fund.”

Phelps explained that the first disaster, #4860, was in February of 2025 and the state is working on that. “Due to the ice storm, due to the federal government shutdown, I mean everything came to a screeching halt, as far as working with FEMA.”

He explained that most of the FEMA disaster items are smaller items and



▲ PHOTO | PJ MARTIN
John Phelps of EUDS Consulting gave an update on FEMA claims.

that they had submitted a request to the state mitigation proposal for Sulphur Well Park for erosion at the bridge and suggested large cement stackable blocks could be used to stop the erosion.

Bragg asked if Phelps could create a spreadsheet that shows the FEMA claim, location, lists what has been done, and the costs or reimbursements. Phelps replied that he could create a spreadsheet that would help explain.

Financials

Next, the FY 2025-2026 Treasurer’s Settlement, a yearly report, was reviewed and approved.

Resolution # 26-0723-3 to add a portion of the Copas Ridge Road to the county road maintenance list was heard. The motion to accept was made by Magistrate Ronnie Miller, seconded by Bragg, and approved.

The fiscal court went into closed session for approximately fifteen minutes for the sale or acquisition of real property. Upon return, Judge Wilson stated, “There was no action taken in closed session.”

The motion to approve the July financial statement was made by Bragg, seconded by Magistrate Harvey Hawkins, and approved. This was followed by approval of a budget transfer and two interfund transfers. The claims were also approved without any discussion.

The DES, recycling, and road department reports were received, and with no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Appreciates Real Local News

Dear Mr. Jeff Jobe,

I bought a small farm in Allen County in 1977. Moved to it in 1978 and moved back to Illinois in 2022-2023.

I was 42 years old when I arrived, 87 years old when I left and will be 90 years old this Saturday, August 8, 2026 if God be willing. 45 years. Best years of my life. Regret moving back to my birth state.

I am last one of my generation family on both sides. Nearest relatives, 2 nephews and 6 nieces who are now old themselves. What friends are still alive... are in Kentucky. Too late I realize my home is Kentucky.

I have taken this newspaper for years. I am unable to travel now. This paper means a lot to me.

You are doing an excellent job with it. It keeps me connected. I am a friend of Montie and Bob Harrison.

It is a pleasure to read how well the city and county are progressing. What a better place to live. Caler County, Charleston, Illinois is far behind. It was just the opposite when I moved there.

Caler County needs a good — excellent newspaper like The Citizen-Times. I am old school of course. I hear about events a week after they occur. I cannot find a Real Estate Broker. I want to move — been searching 3 years for another place. Internet doesn’t work out well for me. I get there ... the property is sold etc. Your 30 minutes show is called “That was the closest I have gotten!”

These people need progress — need to see what their political people are doing. I’d be more informed by the truth instead of lies and hearsay. I would have loved to come here and use your methods on a NEW information newspaper. If not ... can you use your influence to spur someone to start a brilliant paper here? I hope I live long enough to be a subscriber.

Sincerely Yours,
Virginia C. Norris

■TRANSFERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE

Rex G. Lawson to Pamila Ramsey, 2.0153 Acres.

Lillie Mae Wright to Herbert B. Sparks-Trustee, Lillie Mae Wright, and Tammy Lynn Wright, 2.497 Acres.

Tonya Reece and Johnny Reece to Anthony Tyler Bartley and Emily Bree Hudson Bartley, 4.77 Acres.

Donald A. Gilpin and Frances Gilpin to Forrest James Morris III and Cary Ann Morris, 2.79 Acres.

Cary R. Crumpton to Danny Labrador Cortes and Lissette Medina, .88 Acre.

James Matthew Fanner to The Fanner Family Irrevocable Trust and Wilson Fanner-Trustee, 2 Tracts.

Daniel Gallagher and Ashley Gallagher to DAG Properties LLC and Daniel Nathan Gallagher-Member, .14 Acre and .38 Acre.

RJJ Farms LLC to Erin Nicole Garmon, Deed.

David Earl Rabold and Charlene Franklin Rabold to Barrett Bratton Ray Hammer, 2 Tracts.

TRANSFERS | CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE