



THREE FORKS TRADITION

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Fiscal Court holds first meeting of 2026

Members of the Lee County Fiscal Court met at the Lee County Courthouse on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 5 p.m. for the first meeting of the new year. Magistrates Dean Noe, Rodney Ross, Dennis Pelfrey and Tim Brandenburg along with Judge Executive Steve Mays were in attendance. After the roll call and opening prayer by Magistrate Dennis Pelfrey and the Pledge of Allegiance, Judge Mays opened the meeting.

First was the reports by the heads of departments. Solid Waste Director Mitch Cornelius reported that the Solid Waste had collected \$53,244 which included

the Litter Grant for \$17,735 and Fall Clean Up Grant for \$5,000.

Road Foreman Kevin McIntosh reported that his crews had been extremely busy. EMS Director Blake Slone reported that the ambulance service had made 131 runs of which 111 were billable. He also stated that the Service had received a grant for \$100,000 for equipment purchases. Deputy Coroner Kenneth Lewis reported that overdose deaths were down.

Brian Murray with PRTC reported that Phase 1 of the internet fibric optic plan was on track with 78 miles halfway through construction and should be

finished by April. "Construction of Phase II should be started by April-May before Phase I is completed. This will give 94% of homes in Lee County fiber optic internet," Mr. Murphy informed the court. He also said that PRTC would be live streaming the election results from Lee County on May 19th after the polls close.

It was noted for the record by Judge Mays that the Magistrates and Judge had received bank balances/financial reports as of December 31, 2025 and a copy of claims adjustments from the December

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State Senator Robert Stivers was recently named one of Musical America's "Top 30 Professionals of the Year," for his work with the Commonwealth Tour of the Louisville Orchestra. He is pictured with Louisville Orchestra Conductor Teddy Abrams.

City Council meets in regular session

The Beattyville City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2026 at City Hall. Mayor Scott Jackson called the meeting to order with council members Sam Cockerham, Ronnie Stamper, Glenna Cummins and Mitch Cornelius in attendance. Members Savannah Mays and Charlotte Hogan were absent. Council member Sam Cockerham opened

the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

First on the agenda was Campton Mayor Kathi Mays. Mayor Mays requested that the City of Beattyville enter into a Purchase Agreement with the City of Campton for water from the pump station at Booth Ridge in Wolfe County. Mayor Mays stated that the City of Campton water supply

was in dire need of an additional water supply.

Mayor Jackson replied by stating that the Beattyville Water Co. could not enter into an agreement until they were sure that the water needed could be supplied after all the rehab had been done on Beattyville's Water Plant and tanks. Mayor Mays stated that Campton

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Judge Steve Mays and the Lee County Fiscal Court secured and delivered firefighting foam to equip all eight Lee County fire engines across the four volunteer fire stations. Judge Mays secured funding for this project through EK-SAFE Grant. The foam is used in suppression of flammable liquids and hazardous materials found in scenarios such as vehicles fires, overturned tankers, etc.

Statement from Senate President Robert Stivers on the Republican Majority standing heading into the 2026 election cycle

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 9, 2026) - Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, released the following statement after the filing deadline for the 2026 election cycle has passed.

"As the filing deadline for the 2026 election cycle has officially passed, I'm proud to share that eight members of the Senate Majority Caucus seeking reelection will do so

unopposed.

"This is more than just a political milestone. It is a strong vote of confidence from Kentuckians in the direction our commonwealth is heading. That level of confidence reflects the strength of the conservative, responsible policies the Senate majority has championed for the past decade, which have delivered results and earned the

trust of Kentuckians.

"For 25 years, Republican leadership in the Senate has provided steady governance rooted in principle, accountability, and commitment to growth and opportunity. We remain committed to building on that record in the years ahead.



Lee County Bobcat junior Corey Flinchum gets ready to leave Richmond Model defender stuck to the hardwood, as he makes his quick move to the basket for two of his whopping 52 points last Thursday at the LCMHS Heber Dunaway gymnasium. The Bobcats racked up a lopsided victory against the impressive visiting Model team, 88-74. The Bobcats and Lady Kats will be back in action at home this Friday night in a double-header against visiting District rivals, Owsley County. Photo by Josh Smith

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