

The Wolfe County News

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Speaking Of And For WOLFE COUNTY, KENTUCKY, In The Foothills
And Campton, The Friendliest Town In The Mountains

Volume 79 – No. 6

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PER COPY | \$38.00 A Year In Kentucky
\$41.00 A Year Outside Kentucky



Area EMS professionals Jimmy Conley and Greg Gullett, of Cross Medical Response, were in Frankfort last week to advocate for proposed bills regarding EMS funding. Conley and Gullett are pictured above with State Senator Brandon Smith and State Representative Timmy Truett. (Photos courtesy of Jimmy Conley)



Wolfe Search and Rescue awarded \$5 million for new operations center

Wolfe County Search and Rescue announced last week that \$5 million in federal funding was awarded last week to support the construction and development of a new Wolfe County Search & Rescue Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In a news release, WCS&R said, "This significant investment will strengthen emergency response capabilities, improve coordination during disasters, and enhance the safety and resilience of Wolfe County and surrounding communities."

"The new Emergency Operations Center will serve as a centralized hub for search and rescue missions, disaster response, severe weather events, and multi-agency coordination. Once completed, the facility will provide advanced communication systems, training space, and operational support to ensure rapid, effective response when lives are at stake. The team's equipment will no longer be stored at homes and a variety of buildings across the county."

"Wolfe County Search and Rescue extends its sincere gratitude to Congressman Hal Rogers for his steadfast support and belief in the mission and impact of the team not only locally but across the state. Congressman Rogers' advocacy was instrumental in securing this funding, reflecting his continued commitment to public safety and to the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

"We are deeply thankful to Congressman Hal Rogers for recognizing the vital role Wolfe County Search and Rescue plays in protecting our citizens," said Chief John May of Wolfe County Search & Rescue. "This funding affirms the value of our volunteers, and it allows us to better serve Kentucky communities in their most critical moments."

"Wolfe County Search and Rescue team has a long-standing history of service, responding to emergencies across rugged terrain and challenging conditions. The new Emergency Operations Center

represents a major step forward in ensuring the team has the resources and infrastructure necessary to continue that mission at the highest level.

"This investment underscores the importance of preparedness, collaboration, and unwavering dedication to public service throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

"Wolfe County Search and Rescue is a dedicated emergency response organization committed to saving lives through search & rescue and disaster response operations. Serving Wolfe County and the surrounding region, the team works closely with local, state, and federal partners to provide rapid assistance during emergencies."

Fiscal Court approves new meeting date

Judge Executive Raymond Banks called the Feb. 10 Wolfe County Fiscal Court meeting to order with all members present: Magistrates Gene Booth, Billy Banks, and Arthur Vest; County Clerk Corinna Groves; and County Attorney Stephen Johnson.

The Court voted to change the Fiscal Court's monthly meeting dates from the first Tuesday of every month to 9:00 a.m. on the second Thursday after the first Monday each month.

In other business, the Court approved the Sheriff's annual fees account settlement (\$87,716.39), and acknowledged and approved Wolfe County Public Properties fourth quarter and annual reports.

After approving payment of all current bills the meeting was adjourned.

—C. D. Long, Editor

Hazel Green man to plead guilty in meth conspiracy

ASHLAND, Ky. — A Wolfe County man accused in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in three Eastern Kentucky counties, has agreed to plead guilty in federal court.

Clyde Rudolph Endicott, 55, of Hazel Green, is charged with conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of meth, four counts of distributing meth, possession with the intent to distribute, and felon in possession of a firearm.

Endicott was indicted on several of the charges in July. He is accused of distributing meth in Wolfe, Breathitt and Magoffin counties. When officers arrested him, they found more than 8 lbs. of meth worth \$50,000 in his home, along with \$25,000 in cash, resulting in amended and additional charges.

Most of the charges carry maximum sentences of either 15 or 20 years in prison, but the conspiracy charge could result in a life sentence, due to the amount of drugs involved. His plea agreement is not yet available, so it is not known to which charges he intends to plead.

Endicott is currently being held in the Pike County Detention Center. He is scheduled to enter his plea Feb. 19 in Lexington federal court.

—Ralph Davis

Area EMS professionals in Frankfort to advocate for bills

Area EMS professionals Jimmy Conley and Greg Gullett, of Cross Medical Response, were in Frankfort last week to meet with several legislators about bills regarding critical issues for emergency medical services.

Cross Medical Response would like to thank State Representatives John Blanton, Richard White, Chris Fugate, Ryan

Dotson and Timmy Truett for being co-sponsors of House Bill 447 to increase reimbursements from private insurance to local ambulance services, and for pledging support for HB 500 to increase county EMS block grant funding. This funding was approved in 1980 at \$10,000 per county, and has never been increased since that time.

Additionally, Cross Medical

Response would like to thank State Senator Brandon Smith, who pledged to support both bills when they come to the senate side.

A big thank you from the Kentucky Ambulance Providers Association (KAPA) and the Kentucky Board of EMS (KBEMS) in addition to Cross Medical Response.

Jimmy Conley, Cross Medi-

cal Response chief operating officer and financial adviser, and Greg Gullett, Cross Medical Response director, are pictured with State Senator Brandon Smith and State Representative Timmy Truett in Frankfort.

Cross Medical Response currently has EMS stations in Campton, Jackson and Winchester.

Look What's Coming Up In Wolfe County And Around the Area



Transit service offers free rides for veterans

Robert Spencer, Director of Daniel Boone Transit, wishes to inform all veterans that they can utilize the company's transit service free of charge. It is the company's belief that veterans have paid for their rides by their service to our country.

Wolfe County Board of Education 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

2nd Thursday of Each Month (Unless Otherwise Noted)
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Central Office

July 10, 2025
August 14, 2025
September 11, 2025
*October 2, 2025
November 13, 2025
December 11, 2025
January 8, 2026
February 12, 2026
March 12, 2026
April 9, 2026
May 14, 2026
June 11, 2026

Wolfe County Tourism Meetings Schedule

Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. at the Wolfe County Courthouse, 16 Court Street, Campton, in the Meeting Room: Second floor, old courtroom.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- March 11
- April 8
- May 13
- June 10
- July 8
- August 12
- September 9
- October 14
- November 11
- December 9

Meetings are open to the public and provide an opportunity for community members, partners, and stakeholders to stay informed and involved in local tourism efforts.

Local Planning Committee sets Public Forum

The Wolfe County Schools' Local Planning Committee will conduct a Public Forum on Monday, February 16th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Wolfe County Board of Education Office. The meeting is an informal gathering to encourage local participation through community suggestions relative to future utilization of existing school facilities and construction of new school facilities. Community suggestions or recommendations will be closely monitored by the Local Planning Committee. This meeting will be immediately followed by a meeting of the Wolfe County Local Planning Committee.

Tuesday deadline for news and ads

Advertising and news items must be in the Wolfe County News office by noon on Tuesdays to be considered for publication that week —Editor

It Pays To Advertise In The Wolfe County News!

Transitioning to Medicare: What you should know

Each year, millions of people transition to Medicare. Medicare is a national health coverage program which provides insurance to people aged 65 or older, people with disability status as determined by the Social Security Administration or with end stage renal disease. Many important decisions need to be made when considering enrolling into Medicare. Whether your transition to Medicare was long-planned or a more-sudden change, it is important to speak with your local Medicare SHIP counselor for expert advice.

Medicare is organized into four main parts: Medicare Parts A, B, C and D. Medicare Part A covers you during in-patient hospital stays and is commonly referred to as, "hospital" insurance. Part B covers your out-patient procedures, durable medical equipment and other doctors' services and tests and is generally referred to as, "medical coverage." Part C Medicare is often referred to as Medicare Advantage Plans or Medicare Replacement plans. Medicare Advantage Plans are an "all in one" alternative to Original Medicare and "bundle" your Part A and B benefits along with prescription drug benefits. These plans come with unique benefits and restrictions. Finally, Medicare Part D is stand-alone prescription drug insurance.

Original Medicare, Parts A and B, covers a person on Medicare at 80%. The remaining 20% is called co-insurance or cost-sharing and is the responsibility of the person on Medicare to pay. However, for those on Original Medicare, Medigap plans (also referred to as Medicare Supplement Insurance) are available to "fill

in the coverage gap" of what original Medicare does not pay. Private insurance companies sell standardized plans that provide additional coverage to people on Medicare. There is time-sensitive information you should know when starting Medicare for the first time regarding Medigap policies.

Without help, the transition to Medicare can seem scary and complex. That is why trained Medicare SHIP Staff are available to help you understand what you need to know. Choosing incorrectly, or waiting too long to choose, could result in penalties later in life.

If you are transitioning to Medicare or have questions, contact Medicare SHIP. Your local Medicare SHIP Program is funded to help you connect with money-saving benefits that those on Medicare are entitled to receive — such as extra help and the Medicare Savings Program! SHIP is NOT an insurance company and does not sell insurance. For assistance and information, call us at 1-866-516-3051.

Winter Dances for Hoedown Island

Winter Dances for Hoedown Island will be held at the Activity Center at Natural Bridge State Resort Park as follows: Valentine's Day Dance - February 14. Warm ups will be held from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Regular programs will be from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Admission: \$3.00 for adults, children under 12 free. Included will be easy-to-learn single and couples dances, line dances, clogging, waltzes and Appalachian style dances, plus plenty more family fun. Dances are hosted by Jane Bolin.

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