

TOP FIVE STORIES

Aug. 10-16

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following headlines were associated with the top five most-read stories on dailyindependent.com. Search any headline on the website to read the story.

RANK HEADLINE

1. Court documents detail McKell abuse allegations

2. Child abuse suspect pleads not guilty to more charges

3. Principal goes distance for students

4. Making the grade: Tackett excelling on the field and in classroom

5. Greenup Co. cuts tangible tax rate, keeps property, vehicle rates same

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lane closure to begin at Boyd/Lawrence line

ZELDA

Pavement work on U.S. 23 at the Boyd/Lawrence County line begins today by installing temporary traffic control signs. Tuesday, Aug. 19, there will be lane closures NB and SB of U.S. 23. Milling existing asphalt on Wednesday, Aug. 20, through the end of the week.

On Monday, Aug. 25, new asphalt paving will begin to be put down. This is scheduled to be a daytime project with working hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Road work schedules may be adjusted if inclement weather or other unforeseen delays occur. Motorists are asked to heed all warning signs, slow down in work zones and remain aware of workers and construction equipment when traveling.

Visit GoKY.ky.gov online for updates.

Mountain Enterprises, under a \$1,924,815.00 Kentucky Transportation Cabinet contract, is performing the work.

MEETING

Today, 6 p.m.: Lawrence County Board of Education, regular session, Lawrence County High School.

Staff reports

HOW TO REACH US

Daily Independent

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CABELL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, ex rel.,
Shana Byrd, Social Service Worker,
Petitioner,

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-JA-129-130, 25-JA-48
HONORABLE SEAN K. HAMMERS

SHIANN SPURLOCK, respondent mother,
JUSTIN HORN, respondent father of OAKLEE RAYNE HORN;
JACOB LOPER, putative father of EMREE PAIGE COLLINS;
BRADLEY PEMBERTON, respondent father of LILLEE PEMBERTON
any unknown putative father of EMREE PAIGE COLLINS;
OAKLEE RAYNE HORN and EMREE PAIGE COLLINS
Respondents.

IN THE INTEREST OF THE MINOR CHILD:
Oaklee Rayne Horn, DOB: 03/10/2021; 24-JA-129
Emree Paige Collins, DOB: 06/17/2022; 24-JA-130
Lillee Pemberton DOB: 03/06/2025 25-JA-48

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Please take notice that this matter will come on for a preliminary hearing, adjudication and/or termination of parental rights of the above listed parties and any unknown putative fathers or any other appropriate relief before the Honorable Sean K. Hammers of the Circuit Court of Cabell County, West Virginia, on the **6th day of October 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**, at which time and place you may be present to protect your interests, if you so desire. You are further advised that the minor child(ren) and respondents in this proceeding shall have the right to counsel at this hearing and every stage of proceeding; if you cannot pay for the services of counsel, the Court shall appoint counsel for you; and said proceeding can result in permanent termination of parental rights.

You are further advised that if an answer or appearance is not made by you at said hearing, thereafter, judgment upon proper hearing and trial may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the petition, i.e. permanent termination of parental, custodial, or guardianship rights. An original and copies of the petition has been filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Cabell County, West Virginia, at the Cabell County Courthouse, and a copy of said petition is available for each respondent at the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office upon request. You may also contact the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office to obtain the name of the attorney appointed to represent you.

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
By Counsel,

/s/ William A. Dawson, WVSB No. 11494
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Cabell County Courthouse
750 Fifth Ave., Suite 350
Huntington, West Virginia 25701
Counsel for Petitioner

Published: August 13 & 18, 2025

REGION & STATE

Registration open for 10th annual Kentucky Rural Telehealth Summit

BY BETH BOWLING
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

HAZARD The University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) will host the 10th Annual Kentucky Rural Telehealth Summit on Sept. 25 at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort, Ky.

Keynote speakers will include John Langefeld, M.D., commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, and Bruce Scott, M.D., past president of the American Medical Association, as well as other honored guests.

Attendees can choose from a variety of informative sessions, including:

- No Money Left Behind: A Success Story and Strategy to Offer Chronic Care Management Services
- Integrating Virtual Health into the Post-Acute Setting

- Utilizing Telehealth to Increase Access for Students
 - Facility-to-Facility Telehealth is Critical for Complex Patients
 - Winning Trust: Cultivating Clinician and Family Buy-in for Teletherapy Services
 - Utilizing Virtual Technology to Treat Patients with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities: Techniques for Successful Appointments
 - ECO-ROADS: Enhancing COPD outcomes — RPM, Pulse Oximetry, and Direct Billable Clinical Services
 - Treating Hepatitis C in Syringe Service Programs in Kentucky
 - Impact and Satisfaction of Offering Brief Psychological Telehealth Interventions in a Multidisciplinary Orofacial Pain Setting
- “The Kentucky Rural Telehealth Summit brings together telehealth stakeholders from across the Commonwealth to

help those that wish to begin telehealth, others that wish to improve their telehealth services and to engage with other telehealth stakeholders from across Kentucky to share their experiences and expertise for everyone’s benefit,” said UK TeleCare Director Robert Sprang. “We showcase the outstanding work that is being done in Kentucky while engaging national experts to highlight telehealth models that have yet to be deployed here. The summit also has an expert panel to present and discuss the legal and regulatory issues that face telehealth providers.”

Visit <https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/ruralhealth/kentucky-rural-telehealth-summit> for more information.

Registered attendees of the annual summit also receive exclusive access to future telehealth webinars that are offered throughout the year. The summit agenda will be posted soon.

Defense lawyer seeks \$50,000 bond for ex-sheriff charged in judge’s killing

BY BRUCE SCHREINER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nearly a year since a Kentucky judge was gunned down in his courthouse chambers, the issue of whether bond is justified for the former sheriff charged in the killing remains unsettled as he awaits trial.

A defense attorney on Friday recommended a \$50,000 cash or property bond for former Letcher County Sheriff Shawn “Mickey” Stines, saying he is not a flight risk and poses no danger to himself or the community. A prosecutor responded that Stines is not entitled to a bond, citing a section of Kentucky’s constitution that says the right to bail doesn’t apply to people charged with a capital offense.

Stines has been jailed since last September, when District Judge Kevin Mullins was fatally shot at the courthouse in Whitesburg, Kentucky. Mullins died at the scene, and Stines, who was sheriff at the



FILE | AP

Former Letcher County Ky. Sheriff Shawn “Mickey” Stines, accused of killing District Judge Kevin Mullins, looks at a witness during testimony at the Morgan County Courthouse in West Liberty on Oct. 1, 2024.

time, surrendered without incident. Stines has pleaded not guilty to one

count of murder of a public official.

On Friday, the judge hearing the case did not rule immediately on whether bond should be set. Both sides were given until Sept. 2 to submit further written arguments on a handful of pending pretrial matters. Circuit Judge Christopher Cohron, serving as special judge in the case, said he would try to expedite his ruling, and said he could start looking at setting a trial date once those initial matters are resolved.

Authorities haven’t yet revealed a possible motive for the Sept. 19 shooting that stunned residents of Whitesburg, a tight-knit Appalachian community about 100 miles southeast of Lexington, Kentucky, near the Virginia border.

Stines resigned days after the shooting and is being held in an eastern Kentucky jail without bond.

At the hearing Friday in Whitesburg, defense attorney Kerri Bartley said the former sheriff would be “the lowest possible risk level” if he is released on bond pending trial.

“I just don’t think there’s anything to show

SEE **BOND** | A3

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPERTY TAX HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held by the City of Bellefonte, Kentucky, at the Bellefonte City Building on August 25, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. for the Citizens regarding the proposed 2025-2026 Tax Rates on real property.

Last Year’s (2024-2025) Property Tax Rate = 37.70 cents per \$100
Last Year’s (2024-2025) Personal Property Tax Rate = 37.70 cents per \$100

The tax rate levied in the year 2024 was 37.70 cents per \$100 of valuation of real property and the revenue produced by that rate was \$333,764.00. The tax rate levied in the year 2024 was 37.70 cents per \$100 of valuation of personal property and the revenue produced by that rate was \$3,159.00.

The proposed tax rate, same as last year, for 2025 is 37.70 cents per \$100 of valuation of real property and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$344,002.00. The proposed tax rate in the year 2025 for personal property is 37.70 cents per \$100 of valuation and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$1,633.00. This will increase revenues in the amount of \$8,712.00 for the year.

The proposed maximum tax rate for the year 2025 is 38.40 cents per \$100 of valuation of real property and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$350,390.00. The proposed maximum tax rate for personal property in the year 2025 is 38.40 cents per \$100 of valuation and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$1,663.00. This will increase revenues in the amount of \$15,130.00 for the year.

The proposed compensating tax rate for 2025 is 36.60 cents per \$100 of valuation of real property and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$333,964.00. The proposed compensating tax rate for personal property in the year 2025 is 36.60cents per \$100 of valuation and the revenue produced by that rate is \$1,585.00. This will increase revenues in the amount of (\$1374.00) for the year.

The proposed substitute tax rate for 2025 is 37.00 cents per \$100 of valuation of real property and the revenue expected to be produced by that rate is \$337,614.00. The proposed substitute tax rate for personal property in the year 2025 is 37.00 cents per \$100 of valuation and the revenue produced by that rate is \$1,603.00. This will increase revenues in the amount of \$2,294.00 for the year.

The City of Bellefonte proposes to exceed the compensating tax rate by levying a proposed maximum tax rate which will be spent in the following general areas of City government: Administration, Public Safety, and Street. Property taxes will be due on December 31, 2025.

The 2025-2026 Property Tax Rates are available at 705 Bellefonte-Princess Road, Ashland, KY from August15, 2025, Monday thru Friday.

The General Assembly requires publication of this advertisement and the information therein.

**TERRI BARNES
CITY CLERK
705 Bellefonte-Princess Road
Ashland, KY 41101
(606)324-6035**

Published: August 15 & 18, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Posh Nails Bar LLC d/b/a Posh Nails Bar hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a Quota Retail Drink License, a NQ-4 Retail Malt Beverage Drink License, and a Special Sunday Retail Drink License no later than August 22, 2025. The licensed premises will be located at 711 12th Street, Suite 125, Ashland, Kentucky 41101. The owner is: Sokhour Van, Member, of 608 Pine Grove Court, Ashland, Kentucky 41101. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcohollic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

Published: August 18, 2025