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Man Arrested for Child Sex Crimes

By **Mary Beth Sallee**
Managing Editor
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A Hart County man has been arrested and is now facing multiple felony charges involving alleged sexual crimes against a child.

According to reports, Christopher Hawkins, age 25 of Hardyville, was taken into custody on August 19, 2025 at his Youngstown Street home.



▲ PHOTO | HART COUNTY JAIL
Christopher Hawkins.

Hawkins has been charged with first-degree rape of a child under the age of 12,

ARRESTED,
Continued on page three

Grit & Growth: Double T Cattle Company



▲ PHOTO | HALEY DRURY
For the Lasleys, it all began with their youngest son, Keller, who started riding sheep at just three years old. He now competes on a world stage. Photos used with permission from Tyler Lasley

By **Katrina England**
News-Herald Reporter

A new kind of grit is growing in Hart County, thanks to Tyler and TaLana Lasley and their Double T Cattle

Company.

Relocating from Glendale, the Lasleys are dedicated to bringing the spirit of

DOUBLE T,
Continued on page two

Board Members Questions Removal

By **Gary Gardner**
Guest Contributor

The Hart County Fiscal Court met Tuesday, August 26 in the courtroom. After Judge Choate called the meeting to order, Reverend Kendall Ford, Pastor of Woodsonville Baptist Church, opened the meeting with prayer. Solid Waste Board member Coral Linder asked the court why

she did not receive a registered letter telling her she was going to be removed from the Solid Waste Board. Judge Choate informed her she would receive a registered letter.

The court heard from Deputy Jailer Paul Gentry stating there were a total of 136

QUESTIONS,
Continued on page three

Shooting His Way to the Top!

By **Katrina England**
News-Herald Reporter

Thirteen-year-old Asa Rucker, son of Cody and Lindsey Rucker, is an avid farmer, raising his simmental and angus cattle and award-winning alfalfa hay. You can also find him fishing, hunting for deer, quail, and turkey, and even weed-eating his family's acreage.

Recently, he added another talent to his skill set: Trap Shooting.

"He was playing football, and he loved to go turkey hunting and bird hunting with his papaw Joe Logsdon," said his mother, Lindsey Rucker. "His Daddy Joe told him he was tired of making the turkey's butts sore around here and that he had to learn to shoot better, or he wasn't taking him hunting anymore."

Asa, whom his mother describes as being very particular and taking pride in everything attempts, did just that.



▲ PHOTO | SUBMITTED
While Asa Rucker returned home with an impressive title, he's still the same down to earth country kid that his family has raised him to be.

RUCKER, Continued on page two

Hart County Planning Commission to Hold Second Public Hearing



By **Mary Beth Sallee**
Managing Editor
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The Hart County Planning Commission will host its second public hearing regarding the Hart County Comprehensive Plan to discuss updates to the plan's goals and objectives.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Horse Cave City Hall, located at 121 Woodlawn Avenue in Horse Cave.

Residents of Hart County are encouraged to attend and share their opinions and suggestions on the future

development of the county.

The county's comprehensive plan serves as a guide for growth, infrastructure, and community priorities.

According to Hart County Judge/Executive Joe Choate, since the adoption of the 2020 Hart County Comprehensive Plan, progress has been made in several priority areas:

Workforce Development

- Launched and sustained a successful yearly CDL training program at the Hart County Fairgrounds, equipping residents with valuable skills and career opportunities.

Economic Development Infrastructure

- Added 97 acres of industrial

property in Horse Cave and another 114 acres in Bonnieville, expanding our capacity to attract and support new businesses.

- Purchased 52 acres behind the high school to support future community development projects.

Agriculture and Markets

- Partnered with Barren and Allen Counties to form the Barren River Agricultural Consortium, exploring cold storage opportunities to extend the season for local produce and strengthen regional markets for locally grown crops.

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