

•HEARING Continued from page one

Natural Resources and Recreation

•Partnered with Green River Valley Water District to acquire 5 acres at Rio Park, creating a public access point for boats, canoes, and kayaks, while preserving open space.

Infrastructure Improvements

•Green River Valley Water District assumed Hart County's portion of Edmonson County Water District to support expansion and improvement.

•Increased water capacity from 5 million gallons per day in 2020 to 8 million gallons today, with current usage averaging 4.5 million gallons.

Community Facilities

•Established the Hart County Animal

Visit the current plan by scanning QR Code



Community members can review the current plan by scanning the QR code above, which is provided by the Planning Commission.

Shelter on fairgrounds property.

•Supported a new initiative through Animal Haven, a nonprofit exploring the development of a new shelter on Veterans Committee property.

"These accomplishments demonstrate the progress Hart County

has made since 2020," Judge Choate said. "As we now turn to shaping the next comprehensive plan, the most valuable resource we can rely on is community input. We strongly encourage residents to participate in upcoming meetings, share their ideas, and help guide Hart County's future growth and development."



▲ PHOTO | SUBMITTED  
The Hart County Planning Commission will host its second public hearing regarding the Hart County Comprehensive Plan on Tuesday, September 10, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Horse Cave City Hall.

•ARRESTED Continued from page one

the use of a minor under the age of 16 in a sexual performance, and distributing material portraying a sexual performance by a minor under the age of 12.

The investigation reportedly began after the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children provided a tip to law enforcement. The Kentucky Attorney

General's Office later determined that Hawkins had used an app on his cellphone to upload a video which contained material of child sexual abuse.

The video, which reports say was uploaded on June 27 of this year, was traced back to Youngstown Street, and the app account used to upload the video belonged to

Hawkins. Reports state that Hawkins admitted to recording the child, instructing the victim to engage in sexual acts, and inappropriately touching the child.

Hawkins is currently lodged in the Hart County Jail and remains in custody on a \$150,000 cash bond.

•QUESTIONS Continued from page one



▲ PHOTO | GARY GARDNER  
Deputy Jailer Paul Gentry gave the jail report at last week's court meeting.

in the county jail. Sheriff Jeff Wilson informed the court that the sheriff's office had received new body armor plates and carriers, the New Durango had been assigned to Andra Barbour, Phase II is scheduled for court security officer Tim England, and Tim Nichols and Bruce Neville had participated in Red Dot optics training in Provo, Utah. Road Supervisor Kelly Rosser reported that road patching was continuing, along with right-of-way and boom mowing.

In other business the court approved: 2nd reading of Ordinance #520 relating to street-Legal special

purpose vehicles; to pay all approved claims by ACH; Judge Executive to sign Barren River Consortium Agreement with Barren and Allen County; apply for grant to help pay for the Consortium; appointed Matt Dennison to the Consortium Board; the library tax rate at 9.1% which is the same as last year; the ambulance tax rate at 6.9% which is also the same as last year; appointed Carla Wuertzer, Bo Chenoweth, Alesia Johnson, Judge Joe Choate, and county attorney Justin Baird to score RFQs for multiple purpose building; removed Coral Linder and



▲ PHOTO | GARY GARDNER  
Former solid waste board member Coral Linder questioned why she didn't receive a registered letter from the court.

Elaine Diggs from the Solid Waste Board, appointed Daniel Hawkins and Ethan Moore to the Solid Waste Board term ending 12/26; re-appointed Carolyn Short and Andrew Hawk to the Hart County Library Board term ending 10/29; acknowledged the Hart County Conservation District's 24/25 annual report, and in final business the approved to purchase land behind the Hart County Road Department from Owen Harp for \$12,000.

The court's next meeting will be Tuesday, September 9 at 9:00 am in the Courtroom.

ORDINANCE #520.135  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE HART FISCAL COURT RELATING TO STREET-LEGAL SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES

**WHEREAS**, 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 89 (hereinafter "the Act") became law on March 26, 2025 and allows for the operation of street-legal special purpose vehicles on certain highways within the Commonwealth of Kentucky if allowed by ordinance of the local government within whose jurisdictional boundaries the highway is located; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act becomes effective on Friday, June 27, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hart Fiscal Court has determined that it is appropriate to allow the operation of street-legal special purpose vehicles on specified highways within the jurisdictional boundaries of Hart County in accordance with the Act and this ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED** by the fiscal court of county of Hart Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1:  
Definitions

The definitions set forth in Section 1(1) of the 2025 Ky. Acts Ch. 89 (hereinafter "the Act"), and as may be amended in the future by the Kentucky General Assembly, are adopted and incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.

SECTION 2.  
Designated Highways

Street-legal special purpose vehicles shall be allowed to the extent permitted by the Act on all highways that are located within the jurisdictional limits of Hart County.

SECTION 3.  
Exceptions

Street-legal special purpose vehicles shall not be allowed to operate:

- On any highway, or portion thereof, located within the jurisdictional limits of Hart County unless allowed by this ordinance.
- On any highway, or portion thereof, that is a controlled access system, including but not limited to an interstate or parkway; or
- On any highway, or portion thereof, where the United States Department of Agriculture prohibits special purpose vehicles.

SECTION 4.  
Prohibitions

- Street-legal special purpose vehicles are prohibited from traveling a distance greater than twenty (20) miles on a highway displaying centerline pavement markings.
- Minitrucks shall not be operated as street-legal special purpose vehicles on a highway that has been constructed pursuant to a federal highway program.

SECTION 5.  
Effective Date

This ordinance shall be effective on August 26, 2025.

The forgoing ordinance having received its first reading on the 12th day of August 2025, was given its second reading and passed y the fiscal court of Hart County on this the 26th day of August 2025.

/s/ Tresia Weber  
ATTEST: Hart County Fiscal Court Clerk

/s/ Joe Choate  
Hart County Judge/Executive

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CORPORATE CONTACTS:  
JOBE PUBLISHING, INC.

JEFF JOBE, GROUP PUBLISHER  
jjobe@jobeinc.com  
270-590-6625 cell

Advertising / Printing  
270-786-2676  
print@jpinews.com

Michelle Rowe, President  
Jobe Publishing  
270-786-2676 Office  
michelle.rowe@jpinews.com

Anissa Meredith, VP Operations  
270-786-2676 Office  
anissameredith@jpinews.com

Lesia Logsdon, VP Reader Services  
270-786-2686 Office  
lesialogsdon@jpinews.com

Pam Wright, VP Finances  
270-786-2676 Office  
pamwright@jpinews.com

Becky Jones, VP Visual Communications  
270-786-2676 Office  
beckyjones@jpinews.com

Jessie Crabtree, VP Sales  
270-590-8633  
jcrabtree@jpinews.com

James Courtney Douglas  
VP Production

THE CITIZEN-TIMES  
611 East Main St., Scottsville, KY 42164  
270-237-3441  
ctimes@nctc.com  
Acting General Manager

BARREN COUNTY PROGRESS  
GLASGOW OFFICE  
101 N. Public Square, Glasgow, KY 42141  
270-659-2146 Office  
progress@jpinews.com  
Allyson Dix, Managing Editor

HART COUNTY NEWS-HERALD  
HORSE CAVE OFFICE  
570 South Dixie St., Horse Cave, KY 42749  
270-786-2676 Office  
print@jpinews.com  
Mary Beth Sallee, Managing Editor  
marybeth@jpinews.com  
Selenia Gower - Sales, 270-786-2676

EDMONSON COUNTY NEWS  
BROWNSVILLE OFFICE  
109 E. Main C ross, Brownsville, KY 42210  
270-597-3115 Office  
ednews@windstream.net  
Lynn Bledsoe, Reporter  
Beverly Bonilla - Sales, 270-526-4151  
sales@jpinews.com

EDMONTON HERALD NEWS  
EDMONTON OFFICE  
116 South Main St., Edmonton, KY 42129  
270-432-3291  
heraldnews@jpinews.com  
P. J. Martin, Editor / Sales  
Allyson Dix, Reporter

CUMBERLAND COUNTY NEWS  
412 Courthouse Square, Burkesville, KY 42717  
270-864-3891 Office  
ccn@burkesville.com  
Greg Wells, Editor  
Billy Guffey, Layout/Graphics  
J. R. Jessie, Sales

RUSSELL COUNTY TIMES JOURNAL  
RUSSELL SPRINGS OFFICE  
270-866-3191 Office; 270-866-3198 Fax  
editor@russellcountynewspapers.com  
Wade Daffron, Editor  
Melissa Stephens - Office Manager  
Renee Daffron, Design

BUTLER COUNTY BANNER/  
GREEN RIVER REPUBLICAN  
MORGANTOWN OFFICE  
109 East Ohio St., Morgantown, KY 42261  
270-526-4151 Office  
banner@jpinews.com  
Beverly Bonilla - Office Manager  
sales@jpinews.com

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