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Fiscal Court votes down special purpose vehicle ordinance

BY MATT LASLEY
THE HERALD-NEWS

The Breckinridge County Fiscal Court on Monday failed to approve the second reading of its ordinance related to street legal special purpose vehicles.

The ordinance would have permitted street legal special purpose vehicles to be operated on certain designated highways.

6th District Magistrate Charles "Brandon" Henning made the motion to approve the ordinance, and 4th District Magistrate David Albright seconded; however, before a final vote could be made, Leonard Heuser, a local resident from the Rough River area, expressed concern about permitting off-road vehicles on designated county and state roads.

"I just don't see why we need it here in Breckinridge County," Heuser said. "We already have the ability for farmers to use theirs back and forth. It's not going to do anything for this county. It's just going to make the roads less safe. Some of these vehicles can't do the full speed limit. You're going to have to pass them. It just adds to the problems."

Heuser also noted that manufacturers of these vehicles also do not recommend they be operated on paved surfaces, and said there have been four deadly accidents in Kentucky this year — two involving ATVs and two involving UTVs.

"It just takes one deadly accident to change the lives of so many people in this county," he said.

Breckinridge County Judge Executive Maurice Lucas said the state law passed to permit county governments to authorize the use of street legal special purpose vehicles started as a tourism initiative in Eastern Kentucky.

Lucas said he does not support authorizing these vehicles on roadways with 55 miles per hour speed limits. He also noted that the vehicles must be licensed and insured like a motorcycle, but the second year, when the vehicle is licensed, the owner is required to only sign a form stating the vehicle remains in compliance — another inspection is not required.

"There's so many things that stick out to me, especially 55 miles an hour; I just can't go that way," Lucas said.

Henning said he agrees these vehicles can be dangerous, but he is supportive of the ordinance because he could go into a shop and weld something together to make a go-kart that could become street legal, but ATVs and UTVs are safer to operate.

"Well, it would be safer in that aspect, but when the manufacturers themselves tell you, 'Don't do it,' and then the association that promotes these vehicles (the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association) says, 'Don't do it,' why are we doing it?" Heuser said.

Albright suggested adjusting the county's ordinance to require these vehicles to drive no faster than 35 miles per hour.

"In my opinion, I think the best thing for this court is not to pass (the ordinance), because if we pass it, it's a matter of time before somebody is hurt or killed by an ordinance we passed," said 3rd District Magistrate Gary Greenwell.

Albright said he does not believe there should be a county road in Breckinridge County with a 55 miles per hour speed limit. He further suggested taking action so that no county roadways would have a speed limit of 55 miles per hour, but no action was taken on this matter.

Lucas agreed with Greenwell that the fiscal court should not pass the ordinance.

The ordinance ultimately failed to pass as 5th District Magistrate Edwin "Sam" Moore, 1st District Magistrate Jeremy Armstrong, 2nd District Magistrate Shane Beavin, Lucas, and Greenwell voted against

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Hardinsburg PD welcomes new K-9 unit



Courtesy photo

The Hardinsburg Police Department this week welcomed its newest officer, K-9 Jedi, a 2-year-old Dutch Shepherd who has been in training for five weeks with his partner, Officer Seth Taylor. Jedi will start patrol soon, officials said.



Courtesy photo

K-9 Jedi is ready to start work for the Hardinsburg Police Department thanks to donations to the department's "Project K-9" initiative.



Submitted

BCS partners with Healthy Kids for after-school program

BY THE HERALD-NEWS

Breckinridge County Schools (BCS) announced last Wednesday its partnership with Healthy Kids Programs to offer after-school care at three local elementary schools during the 2025-2026 school year.

Through the new program, students ages 5 to 12 may receive after-school care at Ben Johnson Elementary, Custer Elementary, or Irvington Elementary from school dismissal until 5 p.m.

The program costs \$278 per month to receive care four to five days per week; \$210 per month to receive care two to three days per week; \$120 per month to receive care one day per week; and \$30 per day for a "drop-in day." Kentucky families are also eligible to access reduced childcare costs through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), officials said.

Parents wishing to learn more or enroll their children in the program may email kyregistration@healthykidsprograms.com, visit healthykidsprograms.com, or call 845-330-0200.

State releases Breckinridge County Fiscal Court 2024 audit

BY THE HERALD-NEWS

State Auditor Allison Ball on Monday released the audit of the financial statements of the Breckinridge County Fiscal Court for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

State law requires annual audits of county fiscal courts. Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statements present fairly the receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances of the Breckinridge County Fiscal Court in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The fiscal court's financial statement did not follow this format; however, it is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology, according to a press release. This reporting methodology is followed for 116 of 120 fiscal court audits in Kentucky.

The audit showed two findings in the fiscal court's financial statement.

The first was that the Breckinridge County Fiscal Court failed to implement adequate internal controls over cash and debt service processes and financial reporting.

The following issues were noted with Breckinridge County Fiscal Court's cash and debt service processes and financial reporting:


- When the former county treasurer entered the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, into the accounting software, she incorrectly recorded the








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Obituaries

Jeanette Board
Ernie Lee Carman
Lila Jean Coots
Mabel Fetch

Hazel Mae Hardesty
James Edward Popham, Sr.
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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Sunny 93 74	Sunny 92 73	Thunderstorms 92 73	Thunderstorms 90 73	Thunderstorms 90 73	Mostly Sunny 89 73	Mostly Sunny 90 74
						



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