

PETS OF THE WEEK: Homer and Sir Benedict



DOG OF THE WEEK: Homer is a 3-year-old lab mix. He's a really good dog. He loves people and he tested well with other dogs when he came in. He would be a great addition to pretty much any family! | PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



CAT OF THE WEEK: Sir Benedict is a year-old domestic shorthair. He's a sweet cat; he's a bit scared in the shelter and like most cats would do better in a quiet environment. He gets along with other cats. Dogs would need to be slowly introduced since he is scared. | PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Knox-Whitley Humane Association
The Knox-Whitley Animal Shelter is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. They are also open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on

Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The shelter is located at 66 Busy Lane in Corbin. Call 606-526-6925 for more information.

SCHOOL

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opinion—often called a “clean audit”—with no internal control issues or compliance problems identified. The auditor noted the district’s strong fiscal management, highlighting a \$300,000 fund balance and effective budgeting practices.

Housekeeper concluded the Dec. 17 meeting by reflecting on the district’s progress in 2024. She expressed gratitude for the efforts of the board, staff, and community in ensuring student success.

“We are proud of the work we’ve done this year, from financial stability to innovative programs like the Virtual Academy,” she said.



LPD officers seized a large amount of currency, suspected fentanyl, over one pound of suspected methamphetamine, and other items associated with trafficking narcotics. | LPD PHOTO

METH

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As the investigation continued, LPD officers discovered a large amount of currency, suspected fentanyl, over one pound of suspected methamphetamine, and other items associated with trafficking narcotics.

Detective Wes Wolfe, Det. Landry Collett, Det. Josh Morgan, Sergeant John Inman, Sgt. Dylan Messer and Ofc. Kendrick Smith.

Rains has been lodged in the Laurel County Correctional. A not guilty plea was entered on his behalf during arraignment Monday morning, and he is scheduled to appear in Laurel District Court for a preliminary hearing next Thursday.

Knox County School Board discusses operations and infrastructure updates

BY BRITTANY WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

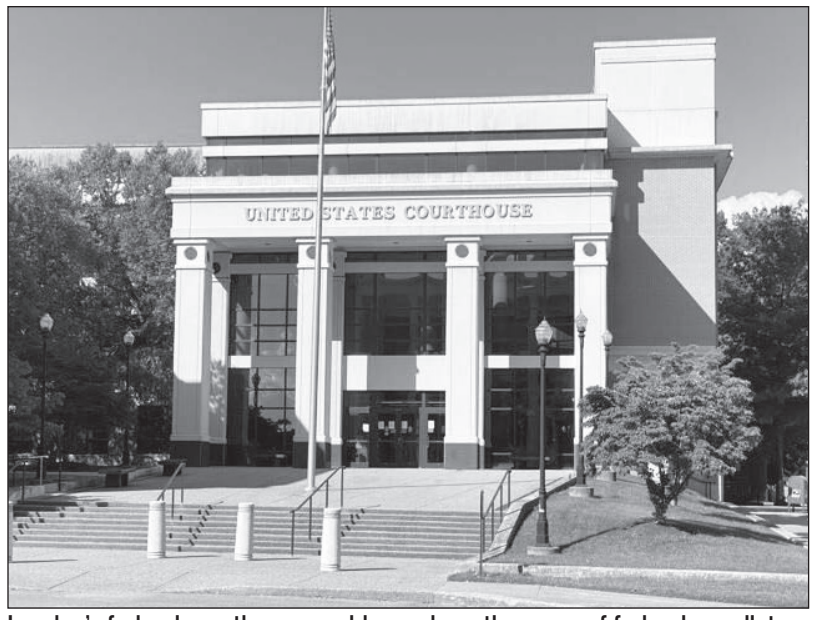
BARBOURVILLE — The Knox County School Board met last Thursday, discussing efforts to enhance district operations and infrastructure.

Reports were delivered by Girdler Elementary and Knox County Middle School, along with updates from the superintendent and architects on current and future projects.

The board also reviewed and approved the annual auditor’s report for Fiscal Year 2024. Key approvals included multiple infrastructure projects, such as change orders and payment applications for the HVAC systems at Lynn Camp and Knox County Middle School.

The board approved a revised BG-5 plan for the Lynn Camp Middle/High greenhouse, ensuring continued progress on this initiative. Additionally, bids for 2025 mowing services were accepted. Other items approved included out-of-state student trips and a settlement agreement.

McConnell-Rogers legislation to name local U.S. Courthouse Annex in Siler’s honor passes Congress



London’s federal courthouse could soon bear the name of federal appellate court Judge Eugene E. Siler Jr. | FILE PHOTO BY CARLA SLAVEY

Times-Tribune Staff Report

The decision to name London’s federal court annex after a long-time judge now lies in the hands of President Joe Biden.

U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and Congressman Hal Rogers, Dean of the U.S. House of Representatives, announced Thursday the passage of legislation to designate the United States Courthouse Annex in London as the “Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex.” The bill now goes to the president for his signature.

of appreciation on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to applaud his valiant service. It is an honor to join Senator Mitch McConnell to advance this worthy recognition from both chambers of this Congress.”

Judge Siler, born in Williamsburg, has served on the federal bench for nearly 50 years. During this time, he was nominated by two U.S. Presidents — Gerald Ford, and George H.W. Bush — to the United States District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky and, subsequently, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.



EUGENE E. SILER JR.

“Serving on the federal judiciary for nearly five decades, Judge Siler has had massive impact on my home state of Kentucky, both on and off the bench. Today, alongside Congressman Rogers, it is my privilege to designate the U.S. Courthouse Annex in London, Kentucky, in honor of this accomplished Kentuckian,” said Sen. Mitch McConnell. “As one of my home state’s top legal minds and a man synonymous with Whitley County, there is no person more befitting of this honor. I join the chorus of voices back home in thanking Judge Siler for his lifetime of service to our country and the commonwealth.”

Congressman Hal Rogers added, “Judge Siler’s legacy as a jurist who earned appointments from two U.S. presidents gives us a great sense of pride in southeastern Kentucky. It is only fitting for the federal courthouse in London, Kentucky, where he dedicated many years of service and mentored aspiring legal minds, to bear his name. This designation for Judge Siler is a small token

In 2016, Judge Siler was recognized as Leadership Tri-County’s Leader of the Year for his contributions to Kentucky.

In addition to McConnell and Rogers, other state and local representatives gave testimonies to the impact they believe Siler has had across the state. State Senator Brandon Storm (R-London) reflected on knowing Siler for the majority of his adulthood.

“I’ve known Judge Siler most of my adult life, and he’s been both a friend and mentor long before I became an attorney. His support, including letters of recommendation for law school, played a key role in shaping my legal career. Judge Siler isn’t just one of the most outstanding legal scholars of our time but also a pillar of Southeastern Kentucky — always gracious, whether at the bench or as a regular at Weaver’s Hotdogs in London. His generosity, kindness, and tireless dedication to upholding the founding principles of our Constitution define

his legacy of service,” said Sen. Storm. “He is an inspiration to the 6th Circuit and to our nation. Having spent countless hours working in the federal courthouse here in London, it’s especially meaningful that the annex will be named in Judge Siler’s honor. I’m deeply grateful to Senator McConnell for his leadership in bringing this legislation forward and to Congressman Rogers for his partnership in securing this well-deserved recognition.”

“Laurel County is very fortunate to have a federal courthouse here in our area. I appreciate Sen. McConnell and Congressman Rogers for recognizing Judge Eugene Siler’s contribution to our community and its court system. Judge Siler has been a good personal friend of mine for many years and this recognition is well deserved. I want to congratulate Judge Siler for this accomplishment,” Laurel County Judge-Executive David Westerfield stated.

Whitley County Judge-Executive Pat White, Jr. also chimed in.

“I’m thankful to Senator McConnell and Congressman Rogers for recognizing such an outstanding member of the Whitley County community. Judge Eugene Siler, Jr. has had a distinguished and respected career on the Sixth Circuit where his decisions have helped shape the law of the entire nation... [T]hat’s not to mention the great number of East Kentucky law students he has encouraged through clerkships and other support, including myself,” White said. “I can’t think of anyone else more deserving of this honor.”

“I can’t think of a more fitting tribute to be done by two of the most iconic figures in Kentucky, Senator McConnell and Congressman Rogers, for one of the most impressive figures to me, Judge Siler. Judge is a friend of mine and my family and is beloved by everyone in Williamsburg,” remarked Williamsburg Mayor Roddy Harrison.

In closing, Corbin Mayor Suzie Razmus stated, “Judge Siler has been a blessing to so many in our community. He embodies the perfect example of what it means to live your life in service to others. Judge Siler has been a strong, compassionate, and dedicated leader in Eastern Kentucky throughout the years. I appreciate Senator McConnell and Congressman Rogers for honoring Judge Siler in this way.”

Community Calendar

VFW monthly meeting
VFW monthly post meeting, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m. Meeting at London DAV post. 300 DAV Lane, London.

Legion Post 88, 84 East Wentworth Street, Corbin.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Weekly Veteran Breakfast
Weekly Veteran Breakfast, every Tuesday 8 a.m. American

Ms. Betty’s Toddler Story Time
The Whitley County Public Library hosts Ms. Betty’s Toddler Story Time every Friday at 10 a.m. Today’s story is Ten Tiny Gingerbread Men.

Williamsburg Gospel Barn

Williamsburg Gospel Barn presents a special 2024 year ending concert featuring the Singing Cookes and His Anointed Ones, on Saturday at 5 p.m. Admission is free. Doors open at 4 p.m. with open mic.

EVENTS

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Dec. 31. The main event will be the ball drop beside Pour Boyz Sports Lounge, located at 121

North Main St. in London, at midnight. Downtown festivities will kick off at 9 p.m. with a performance by band Andrew Moore & Hooch. At the same time, food vendors such as El

Santo Taco, LaDonna’s, Old Town Grill, Neon Squeeze, and King’s Kettlecorn, will begin serving attendees.
Madison Nantz contributed to this article.