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## CANDY CANE LANE NOW OPEN

Candy Cane Lane opened to the public starting on Friday, November 22 and will be open nightly through the holiday season. Hours are 5 'til 10 p.m. As before, Santa's mailbox is at the end of the driveway. Santa will answer letters with a return address. As before, if walking, be careful of the electric cords and tie downs.



## MAGOFFIN'S JAIL COSTS ARE HIGHER THAN OTHER COUNTIES

By **HEATHER ONEY**  
Editor

SALYERSVILLE – The Magoffin County Fiscal Court met in regular session last week, discussing ongoing projects, road resurfacing and the project to extend water lines in the southern end of the county.

In the November 19 meeting, the fiscal court approved the following fund transfers from the general fund: \$77,000 to the jail fund. Magoffin County Judge/Executive Matthew Wireman did note that the jail bill from the Big Sandy Regional Detention Center for Magoffin was higher than the other counties, which is something he plans to look into to see if there's a way to lower that monthly cost.

Deputy Judge Kevin Howard updated the court on ongoing projects, stating that at Ramey Memorial Park they have the new shelter constructed. He said he's talked to the concrete contractor and he will be in the county to pour the concrete for that shelter as soon as the weather allows.

He said they have installed gates and posts at Bloomington Park. The Magoffin County Horse Park has been winterized for the season. At Battlefield Park, he said they've put up a new shelter and they're also waiting for concrete to be poured for it. The wooden bench at the front of the park has been sealed and stained now.

At the Renaissance, they have installed two new heating and cooling units, funded by money appropriated by the legislature through Big Sandy ADD.

Howard said there will be no more veterans ceremonies during the winter, but they will start back in the spring. He noted that with the partnership with the Renaissance, they have put up many flags throughout town honoring local veterans,

which they will continue to do as they're requested.

Hinkle still plans to do some blacktopping in Magoffin, but it depends on the weather.

Judge Wireman said they will have to look at how they bid out the resurfacing projects because they always get pushed to the end of the year at a time the weather will not permit resurfacing roads most days.

The court approved the reappointment of Janice Lemaster and Susie Hueseman to be reappointed to the Magoffin County Extension District Board.

The fiscal court approved the petition to adopt Darvin Perkins Road, located on S. Long Branch on Johnson Fork. They also agreed to purchase a 2025 Polaris Ranger UTV and five-year extended warranty through United Motorsports of Lexington with grant money from the 2022 EMA Program Funds. Judge Wireman explained that they applied for the grant money in 2022, but they hadn't spent the \$35,000, yet, but they were approaching the extended deadline to use the money. He said the UTV will be used for the rescue squad.

The court approved a lease agreement with American Business Systems for a copier/printer to be used for the judge/executive's office and 911.

Judge Wireman said he's heard some rumblings about the water project on Routes 378 and 542, but he explained it is a slow process, noting they are still in the environmental phase, which takes a lot of time to make sure there are no environmental reasons why they couldn't proceed. After this phase, he said he hopes they will approve the funds to be

### IN COURT

## SIMPKINS SIGNS PLEA DEAL FOR 10 YEARS

By **HEATHER ONEY**  
Editor

SALYERSVILLE – A Magoffin County man has signed a plea deal for 10 years in prison on charges of sexual abuse material and sex crime against animals.



Kent Simpkins

Kent Simpkins, 43, of Salyersville, signed the Commonwealth's offer on a plea of guilty on the following charges: three counts of possession of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor under 12 (Class C felony); distribution of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor under 12 (Class C felony); two counts of possession of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor over 12 (Class D felony); and sexual crime against an animal (Class D felony). The Commonwealth Attorney's Office was recommending eight years on each Class C felony (Counts 1 – 4), to run concurrently, and two years on each Class D felony (Counts 5-7), to run concurrently, for a total of 10 years imprisonment, as well as lifetime sex offender registration and an opposition of probation.

According to the Commonwealth Attorney's offer, the case was initiated as a result of a cyber tip, with a detective assigned when a complaint was reported to the

See **DEAL** | Pg. **A2**

## INDICTMENT RELEASED

By **HEATHER ONEY**  
Editor

SALYERSVILLE – A Magoffin County grand jury released the following indictment this past week after the defendant was served in the case.

Brandon K. Rife, 39, of Burning Fork Road, in Salyersville, was charged with two counts of first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, methamphetamine (Class D felonies), and tampering with physical evidence (Class D felony). According to the indictment, on or about March 6, 2024, and April 29, 2024, Rife allegedly possessed quantities of methamphetamine. He is also accused of destroying, mutilating, concealing, removing or altering physical evidence

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Si

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