

City Council Meets in Regular Session

The Columbia City Council met in regular session on Monday.

The City has second reading of an ordinance annexing territory located southwest of the intersection of Highway 80 and Highway 61 in Adair County. This is property owned by Vicky Browning Pike. It was approved by the Columbia City Council.

They gave second reading to an ordinance establishing a purchase procedure for the City of Columbia. They also gave second reading to an ordinance establishing a pay classification plan (this was updated for

the Code Enforcement Officer position).

The Council approved a request from the Adair County Regional Jail Class D Facility for a surplus vehicle.

The Council gave first reading to an ordinance that will amend the time of the Council regular meetings from the first Monday at 6 p.m. to the first Monday at 5 p.m.

They approved a request to advertise for SCBA units for the Columbia-Adair County Fire Department.

The Council approved the School Resource Officer Contract for the

2025-2026 school year. (The city currently supplies three of the four officers in the school system).

The Council approved to file for FEMA public assistance. This was for two separate disaster declarations: FEMA 4964 and FEMA 4975. One of these, FEMA 4975 has been approved for city application. (Will have the other approved if notified).

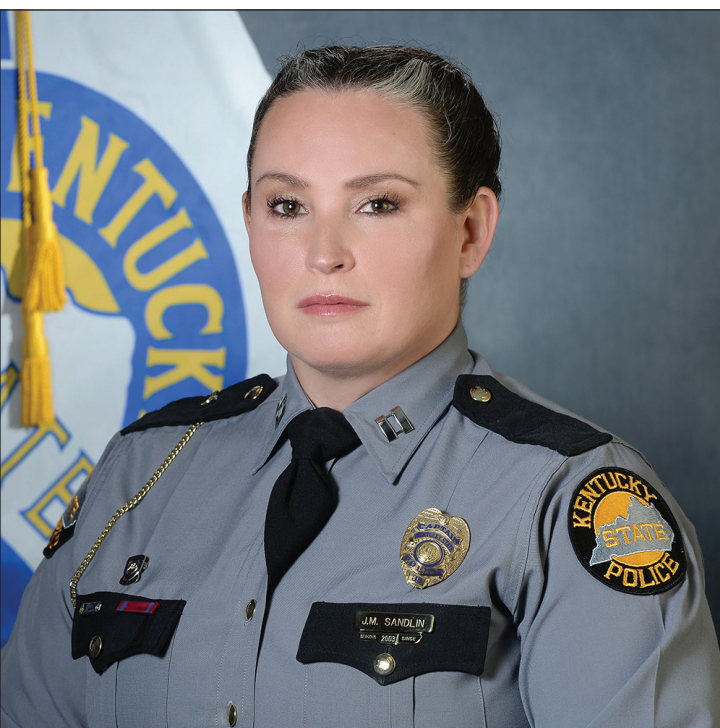
It was approved to apply for state funding for South Reed Street and Patricia Trail. More information will be available.

They set the ad valorem tax rate for this

year. This is the eighth year that the rate has been lowered in the City of Columbia. In conjunction with this, the first reading of the tax rate was given.

They opened bids for advertisement for police vehicles for ABC (Alcohol Beverage Control) and police officer. No decision was made. Chief Evan Burton will review and report to the Council.

The Council voted to give Mayor Hoots permission to research and continue with possible funding for Rice Drive and Watson Street.



Captain Jennifer Sandlin, Post 15 Commander

Kentucky State Police Post 15 Columbia Welcomes New Post Commander

COLUMBIA, Ky. (August 5, 2025) - Kentucky State Police (KSP) Post 15 in Columbia would like to welcome Captain Jennifer Sandlin, a 22-year KSP veteran, as the new Post Commander.

Captain Sandlin began her career in May 2003 and graduated from the Kentucky State Police Academy in October 2003. After graduation, she served at Post 9 in Pikeville as a Trooper until February 2006, when she transferred to Post 13 in Hazard. In August 2010, Sandlin was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to Post 9

in Pikeville, where she served as an Operations Sergeant and, later, an Investigations Sergeant. In November 2013, she was promoted to Lieutenant and remained at Post 9 in Pikeville. There, she served as the Investigative Lieutenant and was responsible for post-level Detectives. In September 2015, Sandlin transitioned to the Operations Lieutenant position at Post 9 in Pikeville, where she was in charge of uniformed Troopers.

See **Post**,
Cont. on **Page A3**

Kelley's General Store Temporarily Closed After Vehicle Crash Causes Major Damage

By Kelly Wooley

Kelley's General Store, formerly known as Hardscratch Grocery and one of the last remaining country stores in the area, has been forced to close until further notice following a serious accident on Sunday around noon.

According to reports, a vehicle struck the store, causing significant damage to the building and destroying the fuel pumps. The driver of the vehicle was transported to the hospital. No other injuries were reported.

The beloved country store, which has stood as a community staple since the 1930s, has been owned by the Kelley family for the past 11 years. Tim Kelley, who now operates the store, reflected on the emotional toll of the incident.

"I remember going in there as a kid with my grandpa to get a cold drink," Kelley said. "This store holds so many childhood memories for me. My heart is broken from what happened, but

See **Damage**,
Cont. on **Page A3**



New Sheriff Gary Roy swearing in alongside the County Judge/Executive Larry Russell Bryant.



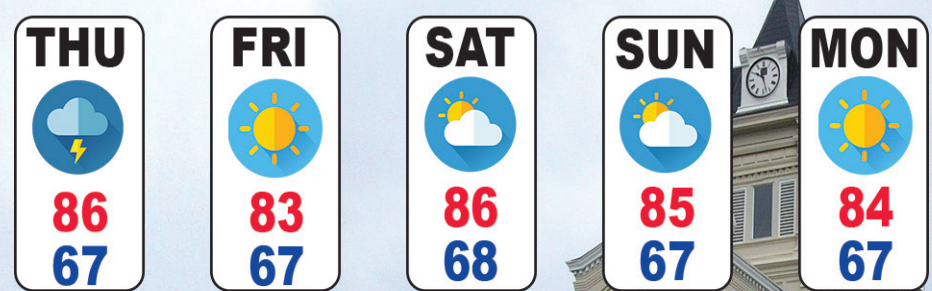
OBITUARIES

Jaqueline Bricker, Magdeline Farmer, Patricia Jo Hammond and Mary Louise Scott.



FOLLOW US ONLINE fb.me/TheAdairProgress

LOCAL FORECAST • COLUMBIA



See Sports in B Section!