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Tower to be erected on Holy Cross knob

BY JANE REID KLEYIN
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Rowan's Knob in Holy Cross was the topic of discussion at the December 4, Marion County Fiscal Court meeting. Representatives from Nelson County answered questions from magistrates on a proposal to place a radio tower at the top of the knob which is located on the county line.

He assured magistrates this would be at no cost to Marion County and the county would be able to utilize the tower as well in the future. He also assured District 4 Magistrate Jackie Fogle that the project would not disturb the cross or the old church foundation at the top of the knob which bear great significance to

the residents of the Holy Cross area.

Marion County garbage trucks will soon be equipped with cameras. After a previous agreement fell through, the Marion County Fiscal Court approved an agreement with another supplier to equip the trucks.

The court approved a proposal to have 360 degree camera coverage around each truck and a camera on the driver's area. The county has received a grant of \$10,000 to help offset the \$24,800 total cost of equipment and installation. Magistrates also approved a monthly service contract for \$300 per month for the cameras and video streaming system.

County Judge-Executive David

Daugherty reported to magistrates regarding investments in the Lincoln Trail Area Development District. Daugherty informed the court that the county invests 38 cents per resident in the ADD to support various projects. He said Marion County has received \$2,887.32 per resident in return through various ADD programs.

In other business the court approved the renewal of the contract with Ryan Burdette to provide IT services to the county.

Magistrates also approved reimbursement to the Raywick Fire Department for the truck that was lost in the accident earlier this year. The insurance on the truck was through the county and a check has been issued to the court by the insurance company.

Sheriff Ray Gardner presented his proposed budget for 2026 to the court for approval. Magistrates will review the budget over the next two weeks and will discuss it with questions and possible revisions at the next court meeting on December 18.

An attendee of the meeting, Corydon Moffitt, questioned the process, perceiving that the budget was being handled out of sight of the public and should have been discussed at Thursday's meeting.

The county attorney explained the process to Moffitt and that it would be discussed at the next meeting after magistrates had an opportunity to review it thoroughly.

Moffitt also expressed concerns on other community issues.

Lawson has pretrial diversion revoked, felony sentence imposed

BY DENIS HOUSE
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After hearing testimony from a Drug Court employee, Judge Todd Spalding revoked the pretrial diversion of Brandon Lawson during the Dec. 4 session of Marion Circuit Court Division 1.

Spalding ruled that Lawson violated the terms of his pretrial diversion by being terminated from Drug Court and imposed the felony sentence. Lawson's final sentencing was set for Dec. 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Groves pleads guilty

Alyssa Groves entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced on the following charges: four counts of first-degree wanton endangerment (3 years pretrial diverted for 5 years on each count), first-degree criminal mischief (3 years pretrial diverted for 5 years), two counts of third-degree terroristic threatening (12 months probated for 24 months on each count), and fourth-degree assault-no visible injury (12 months probated for 24 months). All counts will run concurrently.

Spalding ruled that Groves must report to Probation & Parole and follow their recommendations, have no violations of the law, no use of drugs or alcohol, no use/possession of firearms, and must pay restitution to Lebanon Housing of \$1,062.60 at the rate of \$100 a month.

Other cases:

- Joseph Thompson was sentenced to 5 years probated for 5 years on the charge of a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, and 5 years probated for 5 years for third-degree assault-police/probation officer.
- Christopher Yocum was sentenced to 5 years probated for 5 years on the charge of second-degree strangulation (domestic violence-related), subject to certain conditions, including having no contact with the victim or her children.

DWY celebrates Bradshaw with sendoff to state

Aaliyah Bradshaw is headed to the Kentucky Distinguished Young Woman (DYW) competition. Bradshaw was named the 2026 Distinguished Young Woman of Marion County in August.

The DYW of Marion County held a sendoff party for Bradshaw on Thursday, Dec. 4, at the new Marion County Event Center and Sportsplex. She will be competing in the state program in January.

In addition to being the winner of the overall competition in Marion County, Bradshaw also earned a Preliminary Scholastic Award, an Interview Award, a Self-Expression Award, a Fitness Award, and a Talent Award for a total of \$7,500 in cash scholarships.

Bradshaw plans to attend the University of Kentucky or an out-of-state school through the Questbridge program after graduation from Marion County High School. Her career goal is to become an attorney.

She is the daughter of Megan Allen.



Photo provided

Blanford turns himself in

BY DENIS HOUSE
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One of the men charged with sex crimes against a minor turned himself in to the Marion County Sheriff's Office on December 4.

Charles Josh Blanford, 45, 375 Ruben Smith Road, Loretto, was indicted by a November Grand Jury on four counts of first-degree rape, four counts of first-degree sodomy, and four counts of first-degree sex abuse.

He turned himself in to the Marion County Sheriff's Office and was arrested at 12:48 p.m. and taken to the Marion County Detention Center, where he is currently being held on a \$250,000 cash bond. He



Charles Josh Blanford

appeared in Marion Circuit Court Division 2 on Dec. 4, where he entered a plea of not guilty to the charges and had a pretrial conference set for Feb. 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. and a jury trial scheduled for April 28, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

On the first three counts of rape, the grand jury charged that on or about 2003 through 2007, Blanford engaged in sexual intercourse with another person by forcible compulsion, while the fourth count occurred on or about July 6, 2025, through 2007.

On the first count of sodomy, the grand jury charged that on or about 2003 this offense was against a vulnerable victim, in a continuous course of conduct, and Blanford engaged in deviate

sexual intercourse with another person by forcible compulsion; or he engaged in deviate sexual intercourse with another person who is incapable of consent because he: is physically helpless, or is less than 12 years old. The second count occurred on or about 2003 through 2007, the third, 2003 through July 5, 2025, and the fourth, 2003 through 2007.

On the first two counts for sex abuse, the grand jury charged that on or about the summer 2003, Blanford, being 21 years old or more, subjected another person, who is less than 16 years old, to sexual conduct by forcible compulsion, and being a person in a position of authority or special trust, he, regardless of age, subjects a minor who is less than 18 years old with whom he comes into contact as a result of that

position, to sexual contact or engages in masturbation in the presence of the minor or while using the internet, telephone, or other electronic communication device. The grand jury charged the third count occurred on or about July 6, 2003, through 2007, and the fourth count, on or about 2003 through 2007.

His father, Charles W. Blanford, 73, 430 N. Rueben Smith Road, was indicted by the same grand jury on two counts of first-degree sex abuse. The grand jury charged that on or about Spring 2003 through 2007, he engaged in deviate sexual intercourse with another person by forcible compulsion, or he engaged in deviate sexual intercourse with another person who is incapable of consent because he: is physically helpless, or is less than 12 years old.

Judge recuses himself from Parman case

BY DENIS HOUSE
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A man charged with rape and sexual abuse of a minor will have a new judge preside over his trial.

William Parman appeared in Marion Circuit Court Division 2 on December 4 for a hearing on a motion for recusal of Judge Kaelin Reed and the appointment of a special judge, which was requested by Commonwealth Attorney Kyle Williamson.

Parman is charged with two counts of first-degree rape, victim under 12 years of age, and first-degree sexual abuse, victim under 12 years of age.

Judge Reed recused himself from the case and will enter the order for a special judge.

Parman, 37, of 152 Royal View Drive, was indicted by a November Grand Jury, which charged that the two rape events occurred sometime between the dates of June 30, 2023, and June 12, 2025. The grand jury charged that the sexual abuse occurred sometime between Jan. 1, 2019, and June 29, 2025.

Parman appeared in court on Nov. 20,

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