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| <b>UPCOMING MEETINGS:</b><br>Show up, Stand up, Speak out<br>It's <b>Your</b> McCreary County! | <b>Fiscal Court Meeting</b><br>Thurs. Oct. 9 - 6:00 PM<br>MC Courthouse | <b>McCreary Heritage Foundation Meeting</b><br>Mon. Oct. 13 - 5:30PM<br>OVC Conference Room | <b>Solid Waste Board Meeting</b><br>Tues. Oct. 14 - 5:00PM<br>Emergency Mgt. Bld.(old Search/Rescue) - WC |
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KENTUCKY ISSUES

STATEWIDE HEALTH ALERT

One McCreary Countian infected and hospitalized due to mosquito-borne West Nile Virus

By **Eugenia Jones**  
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The Kentucky Department for Public Health issued a statewide health alert on Thursday (October 2, 2025) due to this year's increase in West Nile Virus (WNV) and other mosquito-borne illnesses (La Crosse virus) throughout the state. The alert advises Kentucky residents to take precautions against the virus, which is spread through mosquito bites, such as using mosquito repellent, wearing protective clothing (long sleeves and socks), ensuring that doors and windows have screens, using air-conditioning instead of opening windows, having mosquito nets over beds, and eliminating/turning over/covering sources of standing water such as flowerpots, gutters, and the like. Repellants should contain ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus (a natural ingredient).

Thus far, the state has reported 19 WNV cases, including one from McCreary County, which represents a notable increase over the average of seven cases in previous years. Of the 19 cases, there has been one confirmed death in Daviess County.

Seven counties across the state have reported confirmed cases of WNV, including McCreary, Anderson, Daviess, Franklin, and Henderson Counties. Additionally, Jefferson and Fayette Counties (notably Louisville)

See **WEST NILE** on A11

SCHOOL BOARD TAKES ACTION ON SMITHTOWN PROPERTY

Pine Knot resident asks for help due to school traffic blocking Anderson Lane

Photo by **Eugenia Jones**

The McCreary County School Board voted to begin the process of receiving sealed bids for the demolition and clean-up of the Smithtown Elementary School buildings.

By **Eugenia Jones**  
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The McCreary County Board of Education met on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, with a brief agenda. During the meeting, the Board of Education took action regarding the Smithtown Elementary School, which has been used solely for storage since the district schools consolidated in 2005-06. Over the years, the property has been discussed numerous times, with community members inquiring about purchasing

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Kentucky's fall fire season began on October 1 and continues through December 15. As humidity decreases and leaves change color, they fall to the ground, making the forest floor dry and ready for fires. Because of this, it is illegal to burn anything within 150 feet of woodland or brushland between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. during the fall fire season. Outdoor burning is only allowed between

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See **SMITHTOWN** on A11

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See **FIRE** on A11

KENTUCKY STATE POLICE POST 11 HONORS TWO FAMILIAR FACES

Pennington and Parmley honored by KSP

Photo Submitted

KSP Post 11 Public Affairs Officer Trooper Scottie Pennington (left) and Detective Matthew (Matt) Parmley were both award recipients during the KSP Sworn Awards Ceremony in Lexington, KY. Both Pennington and Parmley are familiar faces in McCreary County.

LEXINGTON, Ky. (September 28, 2025) – On September 25, 2025, during their Sworn Awards Ceremony, the Kentucky State Police (KSP) honored 61 statewide troopers, detectives, and officers who went above and beyond the call of service. This annual event honors those dedicated to protecting Kentucky's 120 counties, with a mission to create a safer commonwealth for future generations. The awards presented were for heroic acts of service that occurred in 2024.

During the ceremony, KSP Commissioner Phillip Burnett, Jr. praised the award recipients for their extraordinary service to the commonwealth.

"This ceremony is about recognizing the troopers and officers who have gone far beyond the call of duty," Commissioner Burnett said. "Whether facing danger head-on, uncovering the truth through determined investigations, or showing compassion when it mattered most, these troopers and officers embody the highest standards of our agency."

Two KSP Post 11 individuals whose faces are familiar to McCreary County, who received honors and awards, were Trooper Scottie Pennington and Detective Matthew (Matt) Parmley.

Trooper Pennington, a

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CIRCUS

MCCREARYFEST GOES CIRCUS

Photos by **Eugenia Jones**

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