

Digest

Daviess Fiscal Court

During Daviess County Fiscal Court's meeting Thursday, it took the following actions:

- Heard treasurer's report for September 2025
- Heard Executive Order 10-2025: Parks & Recreation Working Committee (Oct. 16, 2025)
- Heard Executive Order 11-2025: Solid Waste Working Committee (Oct. 16, 2025)
- Heard Executive Order 12-2025: Emergency Preparedness Working Committee (Oct. 16, 2025)
- Approved minutes of Oct. 2 Daviess County Fiscal Court meeting
- Approved all claims for all departments
- Approved second reading of KOC C.8 (2025) 11-2025: An ordinance imposing a temporary moratorium on certain categories of group housing and facilities in Daviess County
- Approved accepting

proposal by Bryant Engineering, Inc. for topographic survey services

- Approved accepting proposal by Vector Engineers, Inc. for geotechnical site characterization services
- Approved amendment to easement, right of way and access agreement between Daviess County Fiscal Court and ANR Pipeline Company
- Approved security services agreements through the Daviess County Sheriff's Office:
 - 04-2025 effective Sept. 2, 2025
 - 05-2025 effective Sept. 15, 2025
 - 06-2025 effective Oct. 3, 2025
 - 07-2025 effective Oct. 7, 2025
 - 08-2025 effective Oct. 13, 2025
 - 09-2025 effective Sept. 16, 2025
 - Approved contract with Kenergy for utility service and three-phase service change for the West

Daviess County Landfill

- Approved change order 06 for Bid No. 2425-30: Morton J Holbrook Judicial Center HVAC replacement project
- Approved awarding RFQ No. 2526-18: Ballistic vests with carriers (Detention Center)
- Approved awarding Bid No. 2526-21: Elevator maintenance services (Annual)
- Approved awarding SMA No. 2526-23: One (1) New light commercial AWD passenger van (Detention Center)
- Approved appointing Zach Wolford to the Daviess County Water District Board to complete the unexpired term of Phil Haire (\$2.5T) effective Oct. 23, 2025 through Dec. 15, 2028
- Approved appointing David Rudd (Nick Hetman S2T) to Owensboro Health, Inc. Board effective Nov. 1, 2025 through Oct. 31, 2028

Meredith gets Senate nod to become the next Kentucky federal judge

BY AUSTIN HORN
LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER
(TNS)

Chad Meredith will be Kentucky's newest federal district judge.

After being tapped by President Donald Trump over the summer, Meredith passed the last trial of the judicial nomination process Thursday afternoon: full U.S. Senate confirmation.

Meredith was confirmed to join the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky in a 48-45 vote by the Senate, which is controlled by a Republican majority. He will fill the seat of Judge Danny Reeves, who took senior status earlier this year. Meredith is currently employed at the Cincinnati-based law firm Squire Patton Boggs, where he was recently promoted to partner.



By Ryan C. Hermens/Lexington Herald-Leader/TNS

S. Chad Meredith speaks during a news conference after making arguments before the Kentucky Supreme Court at the state Capitol on June 10, 2021, in Frankfort.

berg College of Law.

Before entering private practice, Meredith clerked for Senior Justice John Marshall Rogers on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and for Amul Thapar in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky before Thapar was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Both of those judges were first appointed to the bench by former President George W. Bush.

In a statement, Kentucky Senate GOP leadership called Meredith "one of Kentucky's finest legal sons."

His father is Stephen Meredith, R-Leitchfield, a longtime member of the Senate GOP caucus.

"This is a momentous occasion for Kentucky and a proud milestone for the Meredith family. Chad Meredith's distinguished legal career, steadfast commitment to constitutional principles, and unwavering integrity have earned him broad respect across the legal community. His confirmation not only recognizes his impressive qualifications but also affirms the importance of judicial restraint and constitutional fidelity," Kentucky Senate GOP wrote in the statement.

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky covers the entirety of Eastern Kentucky, Northern Kentucky and the Bluegrass region. It also includes part of South-Central Kentucky.

Revised fluoride bill in the works for 2026

BY LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
COMMISSION

FRANKFORT — Two Kentucky lawmakers are hoping 2026 will be the year a bill to remove the state mandate for fluoride in Kentucky's drinking water crosses the finish line.

Rep. Mark Hart, R-Fal-mouth, has filed legislation similar to House Bill 16 from the 2025 legislative session nine times, he said. The bill did not become law this year, but did receive House approval.

On Tuesday, Hart was joined by Sen. Greg Elkins, R-Winchester, and other stakeholders at the Interim Joint Committee on State Government meeting to testify on a new version of HB 16.

Hart plans to carry the bill in the House, and Elkins said he would file companion legislation in the Senate next year.

"The legislation simply undoes the unfunded mandate in the state of Kentucky that requires water producers to add fluoride to

the water," Hart said.

The newer version of the legislation from Hart would protect local water districts from civil and criminal liability, he said. The decision to add this provision to the bill is the result of conversations with water districts.

"One of the biggest concerns we heard was they were worried about possible litigation," Hart said. "Doesn't matter whether they keep fluoride in water or take it out, they are afraid they're going to be sued with whatever decision is made."

Dr. Jack Kall, a dentist and the executive chair of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, shared scientific studies with the committee that show water fluoridation might cause lower IQ in children, among other health concerns.

Kall said the fluoride in most toothpaste and other fluoride treatments administered by dentists are sufficient in preventing tooth decay.

Hart said his legislation is an effort to make water fluoridation a local decision in light of newer studies on the risks and benefits of water fluoridation.

"We're not promoting fluoride one way or another — good or bad," Hart said. "We're trying to steer away from that conversation, because that's not what the legislation does. However, with some of the stuff in the media today, we thought it was necessary to give you a little bit of an education on the risks and benefits for it."

Elkins said he considers the proposed legislation to be "permissive" rather than a requirement.

GUN SHOW!
Southern Indiana Gun Collectors
Warrick Co 4-H Center
(133 E. Degonia Rd.)
Boonville, IN.
DOORS OPEN AT 8AM!
Sat Nov. 1st 8 AM-4 PM
Sun Nov. 2nd 8 AM-2 PM
Call for More Information
812-897-3844

Bring In Ad for \$1 Off

Man critically injured in Thursday crash

BY THE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

A man was flown to a hospital with serious injuries Thursday after a single-vehicle crash.

The Daviess County Sheriff's Department said the incident occurred at 12:20 p.m. Thursday on Willett Road near Ben

Hawes Park. A man, who was not identified in a sheriff's office news release, was driving north on the road when his pickup truck left the roadway and struck a tree.

Deputies said the man had to be extricated from the vehicle. He was flown by medical helicopter to

Owensboro Health and later transferred to Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville.

The driver was listed in critical condition Thursday afternoon. The reason the vehicle left the road is unknown, and the cause of the crash remains under investigation.

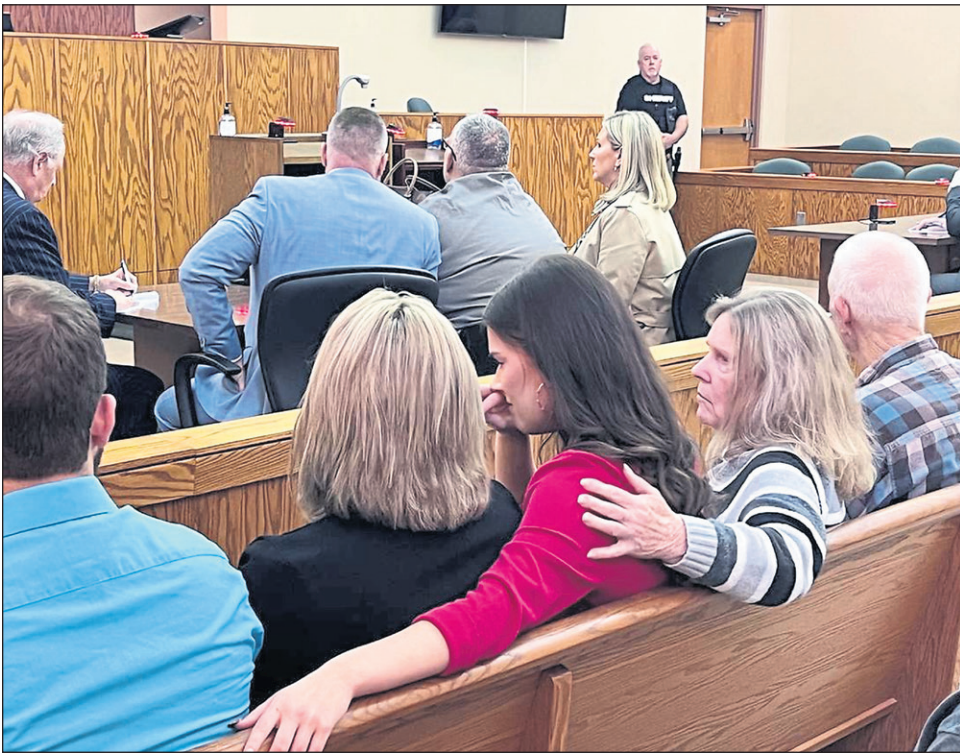


Photo by Tasha Poullard/Lexington Herald-Leader/TNS

Former Letcher County Sheriff Shawn "Mickey" Stines appeared Monday afternoon, Nov. 25, 2024, in a Whitesburg, Kentucky, courtroom. He is charged with killing late District Court Judge Kevin Mullins.

Daughter of ex-sheriff charged with killing judge speaks out about case

BY CHRISTOPHER LEACH
LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER
(TNS)

LEXINGTON — The daughter of a former county sheriff charged with killing a judge last year took to social media this week to deny rumors the judge had an inappropriate relationship with her.

Lila Stines posted a pair of TikTok videos Oct. 21 and Oct. 22 urging people not to spread the rumor and claiming that any stories about her and "the other party" were made up.

"Do you all not have anything better to do than to sit and gossip?" she said. "You are taking my pain, and making it your pleasure. You're taking our stories and turning them into big entertainment pieces, jokes, and for that matter, you're making it your income. Since when did that become okay?"

The videos come after Lila Stines, who is now 18 but was a minor when the shooting happened, and her mother also denied to investigators that she had any contact with former Letcher County Judge Kevin Mullins, according to grand jury transcripts.

Her father, former Letcher County Sheriff Shawn "Mickey" Stines, 44, is accused of shooting and killing Mullins inside the judge's chambers on Sept. 19, 2024. The shooting was captured on video, and the motive for the shooting has remained a mystery.

Mickey Stines is charged with murder, and his case is pending. His lawyer, Jeremy Bartley, has claimed his client was under extreme emotional duress at the time of the shooting, and he said he planned to use an insanity defense.

Mickey Stines is charged with murder, and his case is pending. His lawyer, Jeremy Bartley, has claimed his client was under extreme emotional duress at the time of the shooting, and he said he planned to use an insanity defense.

der, and his case is pending. His lawyer, Jeremy Bartley, has claimed his client was under extreme emotional duress at the time of the shooting, and he said he planned to use an insanity defense.

The case garnered national attention, including from true crime personalities on social media, who claimed the judge had an inappropriate relationship with Mickey Stines' minor daughter.

Clayton Stamper, a detective with Kentucky State Police, testified that the sheriff used Mullins' phone to call his daughter before the shooting. In video footage of the shooting, Mickey Stines appears to ask for Mullins' phone and make a call on it.

But Stamper said there was no evidence of previous communication between Mullins and the daughter, including through social media, texts or phone calls, according to grand jury transcripts.

Lila Stines' videos this week went viral, increasing her follower count from about 950 to more than 7,000. She clarified in a second video that she wasn't addressing the shooting specifically, only the rumors about a relationship with Mullins.

"I am aware of how serious this is and how much of a big deal this is," Stines said. "I was not talking about news or social media; I was simply talking about the people who sit at home, behind a keyboard all day and say terrible things about my name."

KSBA FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 15, 2025
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT

Stock Up on Supplies with Vendors:

- Dadant
- Growing Success Bee Company

Join the Honey Tasting Contest: Bring a small jar of honey of any size or shape, and EVERYONE will get to judge and vote on their favorite.

Join the Honey Swap: Bring a jar to participate.

Coffee, donuts, snacks and lunch is included with registration.

\$20 for KSBA and CKHP Members
\$30 for Non-Members
Please Register:
Scan the QR code or visit:
[2025 Fall Conference](#)

Thank You Sponsors!
The Bee Barn
Green Valley Beekeepers Association
Kentucky State University
Wolf County Beekeepers
Bluegrass Beekeepers Club
Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club
Capital City Beekeepers Association

Keynote Speaker Dr. Jim Tew
Healthy Colonies- What are they?
The Honey Bees' Private World

Grants & KQBBAI - Dr. Tamara Potter

Advanced Beekeeping Track

- Hive to Shelf: The Beekeeper's Guide to Creating and Selling Everything Bee to Zee - L. Augustine
- The Honey Bee Immune System: Complex and Efficient - Jake Barker
- Improving Overwinter Survival - Steve Mahus

Beginner Beekeeping Track

- Introduction to Bees - Larry Stone
- Equipment & Tools - Destiny Hulse
- Acquiring & Hiving Bees - Kent Williams
- 1st and 2nd Years - Curtis Simpson

Location:
Owensboro Community & Technical College
4800 New Hartford Rd., Owensboro, KY 42303

Hotel Options:

- Green Field Inn & Suites, Standard \$79.99 + plus tax (270)685-2433
- Holiday Inn Riverfront, Standard \$119 + tax, Corner Suite \$134 + tax (270)683-1111 (Use code BEE)