

‘COUNCIL’ From Front

a representative from the Kentucky River Area Development District, informed the Council that KRADD had issued requests for proposals and that QK4 had returned the best proposal of the five received. The project, officially named the Jackson Open Space Planning and Tree Planting Project, was unanimously approved and will solicit input from a variety of sources, including community members. The Council approved a motion from Council Member Tommy Noble, seconded by Steve McIntosh, to professionally install a television in the Council chambers to be used for presentations and public information. All members of the Council approved the motion. The Council discussed the process for collecting city property taxes and delinquent taxes for some time. Mayor Thomas told the council that “we are working on it.” The Mayor and City Attorney, Samuel Bruce Herald, explained the process of selling the city’s delinquent taxes during the annual county tax sale at the courthouse. The session adjourned after fifty-five minutes.

Kiwanis Supports Local Youth Club

The Breathitt County Public Library Teen Advisory Board (TAB) recently received a generous donation from the Jackson Kiwanis Club to cover the cost of a dinner for its members. The Jackson Kiwanis Club is dedicated to providing and encouraging the youth of Breathitt County. Kiwanis made the donation in honor of the volunteers and TAB’s service to the community during numerous community events in 2025. “Jackson Kiwanis recognizes the community spirit of this young group,” former two-term Kiwanis President and current Secretary Debbie White said. “We wish to express our appreciation and gratitude for their volunteer work.” Currently, the Teen Advisory has over 40 members who participate in reader’s theaters, the Halloween Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree, the Santa and Mrs. Claus event, and other community activities. This year, they also hosted a Character Meet-and-Greet during Downtown Christmas, in addition to participating in the Reverse Parade. The BCPL Teen Advisory Board is composed of teens in grades 7 to 12 who



volunteer to enhance and develop library programming and book recommendations while serving the community through leadership opportunities. The Jackson Kiwanis Club was organized and chartered in 1923. For more than 100 years, the local Kiwanis Club has supported schools, civic engagement, progressive action, leadership training, better roads, and hundreds of other community-based programs in an effort to “Build a Better Breathitt.” Kiwanis membership is open to any civic-minded individual interested in improving our community. Contact any Kiwanis member for more information, or contact Jackson Kiwanis Club Secretary Debbie White for a membership application. For more information about the TAB at the Breathitt County Public Library for teens in grades 7 to 12, please contact the Library at 606-666-5541.

McIntosh Honored for Fifty Years



Phillip McIntosh displays the apron and the Secretary’s jewel he wore for forty years.

History and heritage converged on Saturday, December 20, 2025, as the local Masonic community and family members gathered for a momentous occasion: the celebration of Philip V. McIntosh’s 50th year of Masonic service. The atmosphere was one of profound respect as Brother McIntosh was presented with his 50-year Masonic Membership gold card and service pin, marking a milestone that few achieve and even fewer serve with such tireless consistency. Philip’s journey in the craft began half a century ago. He was first initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason on November 10, 1975. Demonstrating a swift dedication to the fraternity’s teachings, he was Passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft on December 8, 1975, and ultimately Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on February 21, 1976. His leadership capabilities were recognized early by his peers. Just four years after becoming a Master Mason, he was elected to lead the lodge as Lodge Master on December 8, 1980. While many Masons contribute to their lodges, McIntosh’s tenure as an officer is nearly unparalleled. On December 10, 1984, he was elected to the office of Secretary, a role he would hold for 41 consecutive years, only stepping down on December 8, 2025. To honor this extraordinary service, members of Booneville Lodge 939 presented Philip with a special commemorative gift: his Masonic apron and Secretary’s jewel, beautifully framed as a permanent reminder of his four decades behind the desk. Philip’s Masonic life extended well beyond the doors of the Booneville Masonic Lodge. His resume within the fraternity is as broad as it is deep: Philip was Exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason on July 8, 1980, at Jackson Royal Arch Chapter 160. He is a charter member of the Henry Bannister Grant Lodge of Research and a member of the Booneville Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 446. The evening concluded with heartfelt tributes from fellow Masons, who spoke of Philip’s “faithfulness” and “unwavering dedication.” For the members of Lodge 939, Philip McIntosh represents more than just a name on a roster; he is the institutional memory and the heartbeat of the fraternity in Booneville. As he begins his 51st year in the craft, the community comes together to thank Brother Philip V. McIntosh for his lifetime of labor, mentorship, friendship, and leadership.

‘FEDS’ From Front

also charged Joshua and Earl Hall with selling fentanyl in Breathitt County on various dates, including May 1, 2025, July 1, 2025, and August 26, 2025. All three were charged with one additional count alleging that they “aided and abetted” each other after they possessed the drug with the intent to distribute it in violation of federal law. According to the indictment, the charges carry significant penalties, including potential imprisonment for up to 40 years and fines of up to \$5,000,000 for three of the five counts. The remaining two counts could result in imprisonment for up to 20 years and fines of up to \$1,000,000 each, if the accused are convicted. Earl Hall was arrested on December 16 by United States Marshals and lodged in the Laurel County Detention Center. Lovins was arrested by agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency on December 9 and lodged in the Laurel County Detention Center. He was ordered held without bond pending his first court appearance. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration estimates that 2 milligrams of fentanyl is a lethal dose for most Americans. The indictment alleges that the trio distributed more than 40,000 milligrams of the substance in the area between February and October of this year. In 2023, an estimated 72,776 Americans died from overdose deaths connected to fentanyl. No court date has been announced for the trio.

‘FIRE’ From Front

On a mutual assistance call, five members of the Jackson Fire Department and two vehicles responded to the request for assistance. When the crews arrived, they discovered that the homeowners had extinguished the blaze but requested that the fire department ensure the fire was completely out and that the home was safe. Officials used FLIR thermal camera equipment to ensure that the fire was out and had not spread inside the wall. Firefighters believe that the fire was electrical in nature, but did not pinpoint a specific source of the blaze. The home suffered some damage from the fire and smoke. Breathitt County Property records indicate that the property is owned by Nicole Neace of Clayhole. Crews remained on the scene for more than an hour to ensure that all was clear.

‘BALLOT’ From Front

Constable #3- Ken Thompson.
Constable #4- Doyle Turner.
The May Primary is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Two candidates have filed for the November 2026 General Election.
Mayor- Laura Thomas.
Soil Conservation
District- Jarrett Hardin.
Two candidates have picked up papers and are considering running for School Board District #3: Susan Watts and Anna Morris. The General Election, featuring several non-partisan races, will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Barnett Honored for Impaired Driver Enforcement



Trooper Jordan Barnett
Trooper Jordan K. Barnett received the 2025 Governor’s Award for Impaired Driving Enforcement for Post 8 in Morehead. According to the KSP press release, the award highlights Barnett’s outstanding commitment to keeping our roads safe and his dedication to removing impaired drivers from our roads. Post 8 Public information officer Michael Haney said that “Trooper Barnett’s hard work, vigilance, and professionalism represent the very best of our agency.” Jordan Barnett is the son of Rickey Barnett and Ronnie Back, of Jackson.

Merry Christmas
from the
Breathitt County
Board of Educartion

Then & Now...

A look back at Jackson’s history and how it looks today.

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Pizza Hut was once one of the most popular places to eat, with arcade/pinball games and a jukebox.

As seen today, the former Pizza Hut was razed and replaced by a Walgreens Pharmacy

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