

# CONCERT

from FRONT

Wicked Wieners Food Truck will be on site offering food for purchase. The event is sponsored by Ewing Entertainment, Patriot Realty, Tree Passion and 313 Maple.

The concert series aims to provide a relaxed gathering

place where residents and visitors can enjoy music and spend time on the square during the summer months.

Community members are invited to attend and support local entertainment while enjoying an evening

in downtown Columbia. Organizers encourage everyone to bring their singing voice and help celebrate the return of live music to the heart of the city.

# FESTIVAL

from FRONT

McKinley Wolfe and others.

The festival will offer visitors an opportunity to browse handmade items, meet local artisans and authors, enjoy food, and spend time at the historic property that was once home to noted Kentucky authors Janice Holt Giles and Henry Giles.

The Giles Cabin, constructed between 1945 and 1949 from logs salvaged from several pioneer-era buildings, has long served as a center for

preserving local history, literature and culture. The couple wrote many of their books while living in the cabin, producing works that reached readers across the nation and sold more than three million copies.

The Janice Holt Giles Society continues to preserve the home and its legacy through educational programs, tours and community events. The property, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, welcomes hundreds of visitors each year and serves as a

reminder of the region's rich literary heritage.

The Spring Festival marks one of the first major public events of the season at the cabin. Regular visiting hours for the historic site will begin later this summer, with the home open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. through September.

Admission to the festival is free, and organizers invite the public to spend the day enjoying local arts, crafts, food and history in the peaceful setting of the Giles Cabin.

# DISASTERS

from FRONT

skills through a hands-on educational program next month.

The Adair County Extension Office will host Disasters Don't Stand a Chance at 11 a.m. CT on Thursday, June 18, at the Adair County Extension Office, 409 Fairground Street in Columbia.

The free program is designed to teach emergency preparedness in an engaging and interactive way for individuals and families. Participants will take part in a board game set in the fictional "Calamity County," where they will encounter unexpected disasters, detours and challenges that mirror situations people may face in real life.

As players move through the game, they will collect supplies needed for an emergency kit while discussing practical steps they can take to better prepare their households for emergencies. Organizers said the goal is to make

disaster preparedness approachable, educational and enjoyable while encouraging participants to think ahead about how they would respond during a crisis.

Interest in emergency preparedness has grown steadily across the county in recent years. Severe weather events, extended power outages, supply chain disruptions and other emergencies have prompted many families to take a closer look at what they would need if they had to rely on their own resources for several days. Emergency management agencies routinely encourage residents to maintain basic emergency kits containing food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries and important documents.

That growing interest has also been reflected in the popularity of events such as the Georgia Bushcraft Fall Festival and Georgia

Bushcraft Spring Festival, which draw thousands of participants each year. While those gatherings focus heavily on outdoor skills, survival techniques and self-reliance, they also reflect a broader public interest in emergency preparedness. Attendees often learn practical skills such as fire building, shelter construction, water purification and first aid, all of which can be valuable during natural disasters or other emergencies.

Extension officials said preparedness does not have to be complicated or expensive. Programs such as Disasters Don't Stand a Chance are designed to help families take simple, realistic steps toward becoming more resilient when unexpected situations arise.

For more information about the June 18 program, contact the Adair County Extension Office, (270) 384-2317.



## Drug Arrest, New Vehicle Inspection Process, New Sergeant

MIG – The Adair County Sheriff's Office recently reported a drug-related arrest in the Knifley area and announced changes to the state's vehicle inspection process that took effect June 1, as well as the promotion of Deputy Josh Durbin to the rank of Sergeant.

According to Sheriff Gary Roy, Deputy Josh Durbin responded to a suspicious vehicle complaint in the Knifley area at the end of May. After locating the vehicle, the deputy arrested Kristi L. Ables, 60, of Mississippi.

Ables was charged with no registration plates, failure to produce an insurance card, possession of drug paraphernalia, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), possession of marijuana, third-degree possession of a controlled substance, and operating a motor vehicle without an operator's license. The case remains pending in the court system.

In a separate announcement, Roy said the Commonwealth of Kentucky has transitioned to an electronic vehicle inspection system. Beginning June 1, all vehicle inspections



Deputy Josh Durbin was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant with the Adair County Sheriff's Office. (Photo source: ACSO)

conducted by the Sheriff's Office must be completed electronically and submitted directly to the Adair County Clerk's Office. Paper Vehicle Transaction Record (VTR) forms will no longer be used.

Roy emphasized that the inspection process itself has not changed and that fees associated with vehicle inspections remain the same. "The inspection process will not change,

nor will the fees associated with inspections," Roy said. "Please be patient as we navigate our way through the iPads as we do these inspections for you."

The new electronic system is part of a statewide effort to modernize the vehicle inspection process and streamline the transfer of information between law enforcement agencies and county clerks' offices.

## Walker Updates City on Green River Commerce Park Progress

MIG – Economic Development Authority Chairman Larry Walker gave Columbia City Council members a detailed update Monday on work at Green River Commerce Park and the next steps toward a proposed spec building, saying the park has seen nearly \$1.84 million in infrastructure improvements over the past two years.

Walker said the work was funded through a mix of KPDI grants, TVA funds passed through by the county, contributions from the city and county, and EDA funds from a pipeline settlement. The improvements include a build-ready pad, gas, water and sewer service, a new lift station, sewer access to nearby tracts, the south access road connection to Highway 55, additional water line work and paving on Development Drive and the south access road.

Walker explained the infrastructure work has helped position the park for future development, but the lack of an available building has kept Columbia out of consideration for some prospects.

"We're just out of the running, and we haven't got a building to show them," Walker told the council.

The EDA is now pursuing a spec building with KPDI funding. Walker said the project is expected to receive \$1,682,150 in grant funds, with a local match of \$296,850. He said the EDA already has more than \$200,000 toward that match through existing TVA funds and remaining pipeline-settlement money. Additional TVA funds expected in the next fiscal year would cover the rest.

Walker also explained that the EDA will likely need a line of credit because grant reimbursements are paid after bills are submitted and reviewed. Since the state funds must pass through a local government sponsor, the process can also require budget amendments before the EDA receives reimbursement.

Walker asked council members to consider setting aside money for economic development each year, similar to a rainy-day fund, so the city and county would be better prepared when grant opportunities require local matches.

In other business, the council gave first readings to ordinances amending the current city budget, adopting the city budget for the coming fiscal year, establishing curfew hours for city parks, setting

noise limits within the city and updating the city's purchasing procedures.

The council also authorized Mayor Pamela Hoots to sign the municipal road aid agreement for fiscal year 2026-27 and approved the related resolution. Hoots said the city's road funding is up slightly from last year.

Council members approved an Air Evac agreement covering city employees, council members and their families at a cost of about \$2,600 for the year. They also voted to surplus an old city gas truck and small items left at the Synergy building.

The council approved signing a Community Development Block Grant application for the North 61 project and approved using \$41,437 in opioid settlement funds for a virtual reality training platform for law enforcement and community engagement.

A proposed \$34,000 engineering agreement for the Burkesville Street project was discussed, but council members favored seeking bids before moving forward.

The meeting ended with reminders about July 4 events and a request for city support for the county fair.

**DISASTERS DON'T STAND A CHANCE**  
AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GAME FOR INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Life in Calamity County is full of surprises!  
You never know what might happen next,  
so get ready and stay aware.

Join us for an exciting race across the game board as disaster strikes Calamity County! Navigate a path filled with unexpected detours and challenges, and collect essential supplies for your Emergency Kit to help you on your journey.

Disasters Don't Stand a Chance provides a fun and engaging way to help you and your family prepare for disaster.

When: Thursday June, 18th at 11AM CST  
Where: Adair County Extension Office  
RSVP: Call (270) 384-2317 by June 12th

Lunch will be provided at no cost

Funding for this project was provided by USDA NIFA Smith Lever Special Needs Competitive Grants Program (2024-4120-43164).  
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
**CALL 270-384-6471**