

Grand Jury News

The Grand Jury met on May 20 and returned the following indictments. Note, an indictment is not a conviction. The court was presided over by Judge Martha Harrison.

- Patrick Christian Howard, speeding 10 mph over the speed limit.
- Jimmy Wayne Burton, operating on a suspended/revoked operators license (3), violation of a Kentucky EPO/DVO and operating on a DUI suspended license (2).
- Joseph D. Combs, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence) (minor injury).
- Joshua Allen Lashley, alcohol intoxication in a public place and second-degree disorderly conduct.
- Waren Ashley Blevins, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.
- Chad A. Gifford, public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol).
- Thurman M. Shelton, first-degree trafficking in controlled substances (greater than or equal to 2 grams methamphetamine).
- Edwin Lee Tucker, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence) (minor injury) and public intoxication of a controlled substance.
- Joshua P. Bunch, speeding 26 mph over the speed limit, no or expired Kentucky registration receipt and failure to produce insurance card.
- Benjamin J. Copass, speeding 26 mph over the speed limit, reckless driving, no or expired registration plates, no or expired Kentucky registration receipt, failure to produce an insurance card and operating a vehicle with an expired operators license.
- Tammy Gail Dyer, disregarding a stop sign, careless driving, no or expired Kentucky registration receipt, failure to produce an insurance card, operating on a suspended or revoked operators license and failure to surrender revoked operators license.
- Charles A. Embry, public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol).
- Jerry E. Griffin II, failure to or improper signal and possession of marijuana.
- David Michael King, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Angela M. Lyle, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and possession of open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle.
- Secia C. Navarro, fourth-degree assault (dating violence) (minor injury), public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol) and endangering the welfare of a minor.
- Felisha Shirdia Nelson, speeding 26 mph over the speed limit.
- Bruce Alan Payne, no or expired registration plates, no or expired Kentucky registration receipt and failure to produce an insurance card.
- Diana Resmerinda, speeding 24 mph over the speed limit.
- Jeremy Jerome Rigsby, violation of a Kentucky EPO/DVO.
- David M. Savage, speeding 24 mph over the speed limit and license to be in possession.
- Timothy Wayne Witt, violation of a Kentucky EPO/DVO, no or expired registration plates and no or expired Kentucky registration receipt.
- Augustus C. Yokley, failure to

wear seatbelts, improper or no windshield, improper equipment, failure to register transfer of motor vehicle, no or expired Kentucky registration receipt and driving on a DUI suspended license.

- Ronnie W. Cherry, leaving the scene of an accident/failure to render aid or assistance, second-degree criminal mischief (3) and failure of owner to maintain required insurance.
- Cody M. Higdon, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence) (minor injury).
- Skyler Grace Kernell, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence) (no visible injury)
- Christian A. Lopez, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance.
- Timothy Wade Smotherman, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and failure to or improper signal.
- Austin Lee Sprowls, fourth-degree assault (domestic violence) (no visible injury).
- Tommy Wayne Victory, operating on a suspended or revoked operators license and careless driving.
- Elizabeth Jean Von Holton, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.
- Billy Dewayne Wilson, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and speeding 13 mph over the speed limit.
- Eric Lee Honshell, first-degree criminal mischief and first-degree wanton endangerment.
- Mark D. Carter, first-degree possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Christina Louise Costello, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), operating a motor vehicle with expired operators license and failure to notify address change to department of transportation.
- Daryl L. Hill, speeding 10 mph over the speed limit, possession of marijuana, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (hydrocodone), illegal possession of a legend drug, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Brandon L. Johnson, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Daniel R. Key, possession of drug paraphernalia, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and operating on a suspended or revoked operators license.
- Bobby S. Parker, failure to or improper signal, failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of open alcohol container in a motor vehicle.

- Jessica A. White, public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol) and first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).
- Rebecca Elizabeth Traugher, careless driving, communication device violation, possession of marijuana and first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

(An indictment is a formal charge with the actual guilt or innocence of the defendant to be decided in further proceedings.)

Fiscal Court Approves Improving Texting Technology Capabilities

By **H.D. Overholt**
STAFF REPORTER

Allen County Fiscal Court met Tuesday May 26, 2026, 6 p.m. at East Allen Volunteer Fire Department, 1600 Lafayette Road, Holland, Judge-Executive Dennis Harper presiding and all magistrates present. Thanks were expressed for pizza and desert available for attendees before the meeting provided by East Allen Department Volunteers.

A Public Hearing was held concerning Perry Marr Road with the Allen County Maintained Road Program. A two-tenths of mile had first reading to remove the section from county road system with prior consent of affected land owners of the roadway and public notices posted. No public individual appeared with magistrates approving first reading.

May 12, 2026 minutes were approved with no corrections or additions noted.

Bills list was presented and approved along with a transfer of funds from the general account to jail account (\$22,000) and \$70,000 Opioid Account Funds to general fund in grant disbursement to three entities. The April treasurer's report was presented for review and filed with archives.

Allen County Sheriff Brandon Ford reported a quieter time period for the last two weeks.

Allen County Jailer Tim Meador reported 89 inmates involves 46 county and 43 state classifications with 71 males and 18 females. With 17 weeks of community service collecting 1,116 bags (26,490 pounds) of litter abatement along with 62 tires and 13 dump sites

cleaned has been achieved. Community service crews will be continuing mowing and trimming activities within county properties and intersections.

The road department reported a replacement brush ax has been ordered and should be available by mid July with roadway mowing first round about two-thirds complete currently. Judge-Harper reminded magistrates to complete their paving list and turn in for review. Magistrate Bransford requested speed limit consideration of Willow Oak Court in eastern Allen County. Magistrates approved first reading with speed limit of 25 mile per hour.

Magistrates approved a list of no value surplus dispatch items for disposal.

Magistrates reviewed VFIS insurance proposal from Charles M. Moore Insurance agent Jordan Clarke relating to liability coverage. Current coverage for the renewal year would be \$61,683 as to last year \$57,585. A quote for increased blanket liability coverage at \$64,444.50 was considered and approved.

Reappointment to a three-year-term on Industrial Development Authority of Brian Carter was approved as a June expiration of his current term is approaching.

Danny Rutheford, Shannon Spurlock and Michael Wilson received an approved appointment to the Codes Committee.

Judge-Executive Harper reminded magistrates to review Admin Code and Code of Ethics for any addition or corrections for approval a future meeting.

A second reading on a 24-month Data Center Moratorium was presented with no public comment received. The moratorium is considered, allowing time for development of a local ordinance addressing concerns of Data Centers in Allen County. No known entity has contacted officials with desires of development within Allen County.

Magistrates reviewed pricing of a contract concerning coverage with Code Red, a texting technology notification system currently relating to Allen County. System short falls with current contract gave magistrates an opportunity to compare the service contract with Text My Gov, a mass texting system supporting public agencies and departments, including but not limited to emergency management, public works, community development, parks and rec, libraries, elections, clerks offices, utility providers, home owner associations, etc., at about the same price. Magistrates approved \$9,500 with a new contract to Text My Gov. The City of Scottsville may review their contract with Code Red.

Due to the county's current phone system becoming obsolete and replacement parts of equipment unavailable, research has been conducted for a new computer based phone system installation.

The new system will have capabilities for department transfers upon receiving client needs and reduce some work load for dispatch operators as well.

Aspects was presented to magistrates for review at \$11,550 and upcoming vote at next meeting.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

All are from Allen County unless otherwise mentioned property.

DEEDS

•David Berkemeier and Christine Berkemeier to Sandra G. Poynter, a property.

•Connie Williams and James R. Williams to John M. Williams and Mary C. Williams, a quitclaim deed.

•Shirley Divens to Levi Abbott, a

MARRIAGES

•Amariah Lianne Lush, 20, of Alvaton to Blake Louis Carter, 19, of Alvaton.

•Lucy Grace-Ann Britt, 23, to Matthew Nolan Cartwright, 22.

•Bryson Hanner Chastain, 22, of Smiths Grove to Grace Lynn Hulett, 23, of Smiths Grove.

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