

# The Elliott County News

SANDY HOOK, KY 41171 FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026 • 45¢

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## Dates are listed for Laugh & Learn kids' program at library

Join us for Laugh and Learn – a program offering monthly objectives that target child development and kindergarten readiness.

Lessons are seasonally themed for fun! This program is for children ages 1-5. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

All upcoming events will be held at 1 p.m. at the Rocky J. Adkins public library on the following dates in 2026:

- July 23.
- Aug. 20.
- Sept. 17.
- Oct. 15.
- Nov. 19.
- Dec. 10.

This program is sponsored by the Elliott County Extension Service.

TF

## Elliott County Board of Education Meeting Dates

The Elliott County Board of Education approved the following dates for 2026 regular board meetings:

- July 16, 2026;
- August 20, 2026;
- September 17, 2026;
- October 15, 2026;
- November 19, 2026;
- December 10, 2026;
- January 21, 2027.

All meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. at the Elliott County Board of Education.

## Boggs reunion slated for Saturday, July 11

Descendants of Lafayette and Katie Skaggs Boggs, and Albert and Mary Skaggs Boggs will have their annual reunion on Saturday, July 11, at Carter Caves State Park in the shelter behind the gift shop. Family and friends are invited to attend. Food will be potluck, so bring your favorite dish and enjoy the fellowship once again. Lunch will be served between 12 p.m. and 12:30 p.m.

## Public Notice SBDM Meeting

The Elliott County Intermediate School Site-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council will hold a meeting on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time (2:30 p.m. Central Time) at Elliott County Intermediate School.

Thank You For Reading The Elliott Co. News



Elliott County FFA members in Washington, D.C.

## ECCHS FFA attends national Washington Leadership Conf.

WASHINGTON D.C., June 26 — Members of the Elliott County FFA Chapter, recently attended the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) in Washington, D.C., the premier leadership experience offered by the National FFA Organization. Those members were: Jackson Kidd, Katlynn Riggs

The Kentucky FFA Foundation was able to make this opportunity available thanks to last year's historic gift from The Bill Gatton Foundation, which, among other things,

provided funding to send 100 FFA members from across Kentucky to participate in this life-changing leadership experience. The investment reflects a shared commitment to developing the next generation of leaders in agriculture.

During the conference, Jackson and Katlynn joined hundreds of FFA members from across the nation to develop leadership skills, explore personal growth opportunities, and learn how to create positive

change within their community. They engaged in workshops focused on servant leadership, community service, goal setting, and civic engagement, while also visiting many of the nation's most significant historical landmarks.

While in Washington, D.C., participants also visited national monuments, memorials, and museums, gaining a deeper understanding of the nation's history and the importance of engaged citizenship.

## Local cases revisited on Ky. Missing and Unsolved Facebook page

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Local murder and missing person cases were recently revisited via social media on the Kentucky Missing and Unsolved Facebook page.

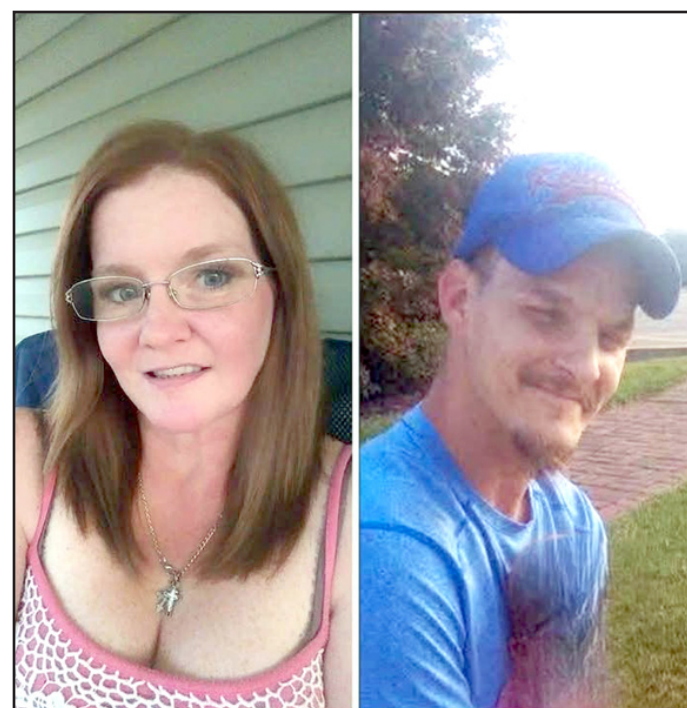
The page's synopsis of the 2018 disappearance of Melina Gagne and murder of her fiancé, Justin Noad, both of Sandy Hook, has garnered more than 1.2K shares from persons in Eastern Kentucky and throughout the United States since it was posted last week.

Noad's murder was reported in The Elliott County News in May 2018, but Gagne's name was not released at that time.

The following is the post from the Kentucky Missing and Unsolved Facebook page, which also included the accompanying photographs of Gagne and Noad:

The disappearance of Melina Gagne and the unsolved murder of her fiancé, Justin Noad, -Sandy Hook, Kentucky :

On May 1st, 2018, Melina and Justin went missing from their Sandy Hook home. It is believed by those close to the case that the couple was likely



Melina Gagne and Justin Noad

abducted.

Both were reported missing, and Melina's youngest child was found home alone.

Less than a week later, an individual foraging for mushrooms found Justin's body

under the ledge of a waterfall near Flat Rock Road.

It was quickly determined that Justin was a homicide victim who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds.

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## Community Hospice seeks volunteers

Training sessions are slated for July 9 and 10 at Ashland office

Community Hospice has scheduled a New Volunteer Orientation. The two-day session will take place on Thursday, July 9, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Friday, July 10, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The training will be held at the Community Hospice office

located at 1480 Carter Avenue, Ashland.

Although volunteers are needed for a variety of duties, there is a particular need for those interested in providing short in-home caregiver breaks, emotional support and companionship visitation, nursing home visits, chaplains providing spiritual support, military vet-to-vet visits, visits at our Care Center, and for volunteers to operate the hospitality cart.

Volunteers determine when and how often they are available to assist, a few hours a week or just occasionally. All volunteers must complete the required two-day training to be certified.

Community Hospice currently has 260 active volunteers in their nine-county service area of Boyd, Greenup, Carter, Lawrence, Elliott, Martin, and Johnson counties in Kentucky,

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## Emr. ambulance serv. director arrested; set to appear in court

Michael Burling was taken into custody in Salyersville on June 24

By Miranda M. Cantrell

Morgan County resident Michael Burling was arrested in Magoffin County on Wednesday, June 24, on charges stemming from his tenure as the director of Elliott County Ambulance Service.

Burling, 40, of West Liberty, was taken into custody by deputies of the Magoffin County Sheriff's Office and lodged at Big Sandy Detention Center in Paintsville on the following charges:

- Theft by unlawful taking (greater than \$10,000 but less than \$1,000,000).
- Theft by deception including cold checks (\$10,000 or more).
- Abuse of public trust (greater than \$100,000).
- Abuse of public trust (greater than \$100,000).
- Tampering with public records.
- Criminal possession of forged instrument (second degree).

The charges came after an extensive probe by Investigator Dakota Stamper of the Kentucky Attorney General's Office.

Commonwealth's Attorney Brandon Ison told The Elliott County News that Burling served as Elliott County Ambulance Service director from January 2018 to May 2024.

Ison further discussed the

charges, noting that the theft by unlawful taking count involved approximately \$140,000, and the theft by deception count involved approximately \$48,000.

In regard to the abuse of public trust charges, Ison stated that these counts refer to Burling's administrative duties of paying taxes to the Kentucky Department of Revenue, and paying in retirement to the Kentucky Public Pension Authority.

Additionally, Ison stated that the tampering with public records and criminal possession of a forged instrument charges are in regard to various administrative reports allegedly filed by Burling.

"We are looking to recoup money for Elliott County Fiscal Court and hold Burling accountable for his actions," Ison said.

Following his initial lodging at Big Sandy Detention Center, Burling was transferred to Rowan County Detention Center in Morehead – but was released on Friday, June 26, after he posted a \$100,000 bond.

Burling was scheduled to be arraigned on Thursday, July 9, in Elliott Circuit Court, after the press deadline for this week's paper.

In addition to Elliott County Ambulance Service, Burling had previously worked at Morgan County Ambulance Service and other area EMS agencies, and is also the owner of Seasons Florist in Magoffin County.

Any updates on this case will be noted as they become available.

## Summer Reading Camp planned at public library

The Rocky J. Adkins Public Library will host a Summer Reading Camp on the following dates:

- July 6-10 – Ages 5-9.
- July 13-17 – Ages 10-13.

Camp events will begin at 12 p.m. and run through 4 p.m. daily.

Volunteers ages 14-17 are welcome! Earn extra service hours, build leadership skills, and make a difference!

Registration runs through June 30. Sign up today! Spaces are limited.

Camp activities will include reading time, book talks, creative projects, games and prizes, water fun, making friends

and building confidence.

As a little incentive for kids to participate in the entire week of camp, they will be awarded a free ticket to Camden park!

hticket includes a two for one entrance, witch means you and your child will get admission to the park for free! This ticket does not include food or drinks. We hope to see everyone in July! There will be limited openings to camp, 40 in total.

For additional information contact the Rocky J. Adkins Public Library at 606-738-5796. Join us for unforgettable days and lasting memories at Summer Reading Camp!



## Chloe Dickerson Completes Training To Earn 911 Dispatcher Certification

From Elliott County Fiscal Court, June 26 - Today we are celebrating Miss Chloe Dickerson for graduating KY-DOCJT Training at ECU in Richmond and achieving the rank of Certified 911 & Communication Dispatcher! Congratulations Chloe and thank you for your service to Elliott County!!



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