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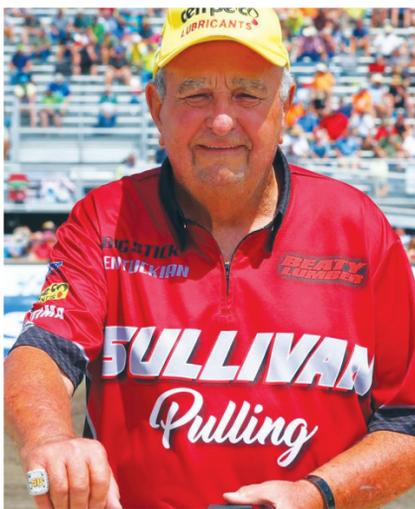
Wednesday, January 7, 2026

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Looking back at 2025



The most severe winter storm since 1978 paralyzed the county with snow and ice in January. This photograph was taken at the Glencoe Exit of I-71. Photos by Kelley Warnick



Veteran tractor puller Wayne Sullivan won a ring for winning the largest pull in the country in August.



December's lighted Christmas parade kicked off the holiday season.



Gallatin County News publisher Denny Kelley Warnick died in February at the age of 102.



Coach Jon Jones, who has won more Gallatin County basketball games than anyone, returned to the court in July.



The worst flooding since 1997 left many residents stranded in April. This photograph was taken at Jackson Landing.

Possible zone change brings some concern

KY Speedway may be zoned for industry

A proposed zoning change for the Kentucky Speedway property has many people concerned, especially those living in the Sparta area.

The land is currently zoned for motor and equine entertainment but the county's planning and zoning committee held a public hearing Tuesday evening to discuss the possibility of changing the zoning to heavy industry.

The Speedway opened in 2000 but hasn't had a race since 2020 and there are apparently no plans to resume racing. It sits on about 200 sprawling acres, much of which has been cleared and paved for parking. Hundreds of millions of state and private money have been spent to develop the property and highways surrounding it. Although no races have been held there in five years, Ford Motor Company has used it to park new vehicles waiting to be sold.

"I've heard several rumors about what may

go on out there," said Dr. Richard Ackermann, whose farm is located near the Speedway. "Why the county would want heavy industry in that part of the county is a mystery to me and it doesn't sound right. Someone said the Speedway's owners hope to sell it to someone who wants to build an artificial intelligence data center. Those are massive complexes that use huge amounts of electricity and water. Those types of centers create a lot of noise and pollution but have few jobs. I used to serve on the county's planning and zoning committee and it was never zoned for heavy industry."

The county's planning and zoning committee wouldn't make the final ruling on the zone change. The committee makes recommendations to the county's fiscal court, which has the final say in all zoning matters.

The next fiscal court meeting is Tuesday, January 13, at 4:30 p.m. at the Extension Service office.

Coach Honaker stepping down

Gallatin County Schools have begun the search for a new varsity football coach after Coach Rick Honaker announced he has accepted an offer to coach at Campbell County High School, next year.

Coach Honaker has more than 20 years of football experience and played for Campbell County High School. He and his family live in the Northern Kentucky town of Taylor Mill. He was hired as Gallatin County football coach last February and during his only

season here, the Wildcats won two of ten games.

"It was a bittersweet decision for me to make," Honaker said. "I've grown to love Gallatin County, its people and the community. I feel Campbell County is my home, however, and I couldn't turn down the offer. Other schools reached out to me and I turned them all down. I'll have about an 11-minute commute while I have to drive 45 minutes to get to Gallatin County."

Honaker said his son, **See Honaker, page 3**

Johns, Beach will run

Two more candidates have filed to run in the May primary election.

Carey Johns, a Democrat, is running for constable in the Sparta/Gold Star District. Also, Garrett Beach, a Republican, is now running for constable in the Napoleon/Concord District. Fellow Republican Brad Tanner is also

running for that office.

Other candidates running for constable include Republican Billy Skirvin in the Glencoe/Veterans Memorial District and Democrat John Peck in the Warsaw District

With nearly every local office up for election, candidates who want to run in **See Election, page 3**

Our crystal ball sees it all

This and That

By Kelley Warnick
Editor

I returned to work Monday after a few days off for the holidays and did what I always do at the start of a new year. I climbed down the rickety old stairs that lead to the newspaper's dark and musty basement. Once there, I retrieved our crystal ball, which for decades has given the newspaper's editors a look at what the future may hold.

I placed the ball on my desk wiped it clean, and said the magic words that unlock its secrets.

The ball showed tensions rise at the January meeting of the fiscal court when residents say they are concerned the Kentucky Speedway will be converted into a noisy artificial intelligence data center.

Judge Morris calms the group when he says the county isn't interested in artificial intelligent

but a little common sense would be nice.

According to the crystal ball residents complain at the February meeting of Warsaw City Council about the lack of a car wash in town.

"My car is so dirty, I forgot what color it is," one man said.

The crystal ball showed anxiety returns when the fiscal court meets in March. Residents voice worries the Kentucky Speedway will be sold to a noisy company that makes parts for the aircraft industry.

Those fears fade when it's announced the Kentucky Speedway may soon return to racing.

The ball said the April meeting of Glencoe City Council gets heated when the owner of the Sandbox Swingers Club in Sparta asks for permission to open a similar club in that city.

"We don't want any swinging going on in Glencoe," one woman says. "The only swinging we want to see is down at our playground."

The ball said County Clerk Christina McEntire has troubling news in May about

the primary election.

"All our voting machines crashed," McEntire announces. "We'll have to count each vote by hand and we hope to be finished by October."

The ball said more alarm arises at the September fiscal court meeting when residents report there are rumors the Kentucky Speedway will be sold to a pig farmer.

"We've got enough stinking manure around here," one man says.

All members of the court agreed.

As the year comes to an end, the ball showed the county cheers when it's announced the Kentucky Speedway will be demolished. All concrete and asphalt from the demolition will be used to repair the section of Steeles Bottom Road that has collapsed into the Ohio River.

"Finally, something good will come from that race track," one man said.

I can't guarantee everything our crystal ball sees will come true. Right or wrong, I can't wait for the excitement to begin.