

Join Us:

June 13, 2026, 2PM - 5PM  
At Grant County Middle School

2:30pm Featured Event:  
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI  
RECOGNITION  
Stephen Bates '68,  
Victor Fox '54,  
David Barnes '66,  
Joyce Doyle '62,  
Emily Kenner '00,  
Craig Martin '92,  
Carla Lanter Cooper '68,  
Constantine Curris '58,  
Donald Mitts '63,  
Gary Melton '71,  
Rodney McMullen '78,  
and John Flege Jr. '47

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# Grant County News

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\$2

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

## 'Your accounting function just came to a halt'

BY BETSY SMITH  
EDITOR

### WILLIAMSTOWN'S 2024-25 REPORT CONTAINED FIVE MATERIAL WEAKNESSES

Paul Maddox, of Maddox & Associates CPAs Inc., appeared before the Williamstown City Council at the June 1 regular meeting to discuss the FY 2024-25 audit report.

Williamstown usually has a clean audit with no findings, according to Maddox. Findings are not good; they indicate concern with an entity's financial health, internal controls and compliance and pinpoint areas of risks.

1. Bank reconciliations on the city's 25 bank accounts had not been done for months. Maddox said money could have gone missing but did not.

He noted the hard work of City Clerk Crystal Fryman, who began work June 9, 2025, untangling the mess left behind by her predecessor.

Councilmember Gina Austin Smith asked for clarification that the money that was supposed to be there was still there; Maddox said it was.

2. Unauthorized expenses stemmed from failure to "maintain effective internal controls over disbursements and expenditures to ensure that all expenses were properly authorized, supported and reviewed prior to payment."

Invoices were missing; existing invoices had not been approved. Maddox indicated the invoices were for "normal, customary expenses for the city. I don't think there was anything nefarious about those, but you've got to have documentation to support what you paid, and you did not."

Mayor David Henson com-

mented, "Although it looks like the money is accounted for we really don't know 100%."

"You'll never know," Maddox replied.

3. The city "did not maintain effective internal controls over payroll to ensure that employee pay rates and compensation changes were properly authorized and documented."

Maddox said they look at employee time cards and city records to verify approval and proper processing.

"There were instances where we could not support the employee

pay rates that were paid to employees on the pay runs that we looked at."

Henson asked if there were "specific employees this pertained to."

"Yes, the city clerk had one," Maddox answered. He said there may have been others but he didn't recall.

4. Effective internal control over employee time cards/payroll processing was not maintained. Without oversight and documented approval, it is possible for someone

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## Build a pipe organ at The Old Church on the Dry Ridge

BY BETSY SMITH  
EDITOR

The Old Church on the Dry Ridge, home to Grant County's only pipe organ, is hosting a free family event that combines science, woodworking, music and technology. On Tuesday, June 16, at 2:30 p.m., in just an hour, participants will have the unique opportunity to construct a large working model of a pipe organ.

The program is available through Orgelkids—Dutch for "organ kids." The non-profit group, started in the Netherlands and transplanted in the U.S., seeks to introduce youngsters to this beautiful, historic instrument.

The portable pipe organ kit contains 133 parts with a two-octave keyboard. The frame is constructed using "tusk tenon joints, ancient engineering that dates back 7,000 years," according to the Orgelkids website.

Like the organ belonging to The Old Church on the Dry Ridge, the model is hand-pumped. During the workshop, a demonstration of the church's organ will be given.

The Old Church on the Dry Ridge is located at 15 Warsaw Avenue, Dry Ridge.

## 'You are the reason we do this'

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A couple years ago, there were some rumblings about an out-of-county law enforcement officer speaking on the old courthouse steps. Then, there was some talk about a "torch run" or something, but not a lot of specifics about the event or why the guy was speaking on the steps.

Usually, courthouse steps are used for foreclosure/Master Commissioner sales and, every now and again, tourist pictures, some political stumping or a tree lighting and the like.

Last week, on Wednesday, June 3, another out-of-county officer, Bullitt County, Kentucky Deputy Trevor Ford, spoke on the courthouse steps.

This time, the reasons and background were a bit clearer. Ford is the state coordinator for the Kentucky Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics.

For those not familiar with the torch run, the activity is a fund raiser for Special Olympics, and it has been held in Kentucky for 40 years.

Ford took the helm just this year and has hit the ground running.

Grant County Special Olympics (GCSO) coordinator Beverly Bass knew about the event and initiated the process for the inclusion of a Grant County leg of the LETR. Bass contacted both Captain Scott Lingle, Kentucky State Police (KSP) Post 6 commander, and Ford seeking to include GCSO in the run.

She said this is the third time since she took over GCSO the LETR has



Deborah Lucas Angel

The torch runners pose on the courthouse steps at the finish of the Grant County leg of the 2026 Law Enforcement Torch Run. The torch run is a major fundraiser law enforcement does for Special Olympics.

been in Grant County. Apparently, due to scheduling issues, it was missed last year but is back this year and for the future.

Grant County's 2026 leg of the LETR began at 103 Barnes Road next to the strip mall. A KSP cruiser with flashing lights led the way with local law enforcement guarding the rear as a rolling buffer was created around the runners.

Participating were members of the Dry Ridge and Williamstown police departments and the Grant County Sheriff's Office; the Ark Encounter security and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) personnel. (KDFWR runners ran back to their cars, doubling their race distance.)

Jefferson County Deputy Filipe Hernandez drove a KSP van with open doors, playing thumping rock music to keep the tempo for the race as runners made their way to the old courthouse.

When they reached the Williamstown Fire Department, members of the Grant County Special Olympics joined the law enforcement officers for the last leg.

Addressing the runners at the courthouse, Ford thanked everyone for attending and told the Special Olympians, "You are why we run."

Having coordinated runs in Bullitt County, Hardin County and Bowling Green the day before; from Grant County, Ford was traveling to Kenton and then Boone County for the next

two legs of the torch bearing.

Throughout the week he would be in Frankfort and Lexington and traveling through more counties Friday with Saturday a "big day" with five locations to run.

The Torch Run has been in existence since 1986. It started in Wichita, Kansas and has expanded into a national and international event.

Each year, the torch is carried throughout Kentucky. Last year there were 14 runs; this year it has expanded to 17.

There will be a biennial USA games this year and the quadrennial World LETR Games in 2027. Richmond, Kentucky Chief of Police Rodney

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## Plenty of fun in Grant County this Saturday!

### WILLIAM ARNOLD FOUNDER'S DAY

This Saturday, June 13, Founder's Day will begin at noon at the William Arnold Cabin with the dedication of a new bench out front in memory of Eva Lois Hopper. Also, the re-placement of the Stacy Family donation markers will be moved from their place out front to a spot

next to the shelter.

Founder's Day continues to 5 p.m. Organizer Lavon Sheree explained the cabin has no lighting, thus the need to end early in the evening.

Demonstrators of pioneer skills are always a big part of Founder's Day. This year's demonstrations include chair/basket weaving, quilting, spinning and weaving fibers

(the demonstrator is bringing Angora goats!), fur trapping, children's crafts and pioneer games.

A group of dulcimer musicians will be performing until 5 p.m., at which time Grant County Canonner Jimmy Thorne will fire his cannon.

As an added sweet incentive, Sheree said cotton candy will be available.

The William Arnold Log Cabin Museum is located at 124 South Main Street, Williamstown, KY.

### MARIGOLD DAY

Marigold Day takes place in downtown Williamstown on Saturday, June 13, from 3-10 p.m. Expect lots

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