

PLEAS FROM THE POUND

CHARLOTTE

"We're all in love!" the shelter director said. She was talking about Charlotte, a pretty-in-her-own-way dog that the staff rescued from her home in a car in April. The last two months they've learned all about the two-year-old, now spayed pup. They've concluded, "She's the best dog ever."

Of course, even before the staff experienced Charlotte's sweetness, they knew she was a heroine. In her tiny space in that truck, Charlotte was watching over puppies. She had tucked them safely under the seat and spent the long, lonely hours comforting them, trying not to let them know that she was afraid, too.

The rescue situation was one that, the experienced staff knew, could have gone very badly. It didn't, thanks to Charlotte's trusting, grateful nature.



FRITO

The American dream has typically included a parent hoping that his child would have a better life than he did. Frito's mother probably wouldn't understand that completely, but she knew that she'd do anything to help her bob-tailed kitten survive. That was hard because Frito's mama was a feral cat, terrified of people, never knowing human kindness. Yet, Frito can have a better life.

Mama cat won't know what happens to Frito, but the shelter staff will. They've taught Frito to trust people, to enjoy having someone stroke his irresistibly soft Persian-like fluff, to be a house kitten.

Frito is a little confused and shy. After all, his life has changed completely. And, to move to a better life, Frito had to leave Mama behind.



DARBY

Darby is learning amazingly quickly. For instance, he's mastered leash-walking. Of course, the six-month-old boy's a German Shepherd, a breed known for its brilliance. He's also a pup who's humble and wants to please people who are kind to him. It seems as though, during his short life, poor Darby must have already met people who weren't kind.

That shows in the way Darby stays huddled against the floor, paws tucked under, head down. He doesn't feel that he has the right to take up much space. Darby also seems afraid that someone will punish him, maybe just for existing.

Maybe Darby was already punished, almost to death. The handsome pup was abandoned, young, unfamiliar with dodging cars and too shy to ask for help.

FINN

Finn, at six years old, isn't a puppy. That can be a good thing. Finn already knows how to be a good boy. The poodle came to the shelter as a stray. Finn can't explain how that happened to a well-behaved, neutered, housebroken dog like him. He can't understand why no one came for him, either.

Yet, betrayed as he was, this little fellow still offers love. That makes



Finn a perfect pet, especially for someone a bit older. Training a puppy takes time. And adopting a puppy should come with a promise, a promise and plan to take care of that puppy for 15 years.

Finn has many good years ahead, but not 15. He and an older person would be an ideal match.

MOXLEY

Moxley immediately showed the shelter staff that he's a perfect gentleman. He demonstrated that he's housebroken and even walks politely on a leash. Another clue was that the handsome, two-year-old, brindled fellow was neutered, an action

that helped Moxley maintain his agreeable nature. It also showed that someone once cared.

Yet, despite everything that should have pointed to a forever home, Moxley was alone, wandering, seeking help. Sometimes those who work with these unwanted pets wish they knew how such nice pets came to such bad fates. Sometimes they're glad that they don't know. It could break their hearts.

But Moxley doesn't ever feel sorry for himself. His soulful, intelligent eyes search people's faces, looking for ways to please and, maybe, earn his way home.

AROUND THE COUNTY

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- Grant County Board of Elections, 107 North Main Street, Williamstown at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Colton Simpson at (859) 824-3321.

- Grant County Board of Education, regular meeting, 820 Arnie Risen Blvd, Williamstown. For more information contact the Office at (859) 824-3323.

- Williamstown Woman's Club at Williamstown Baptist Church, 214 North Main Street at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact ritasnstorm2@gmail.com

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- Williamstown Senior Center, 400 North Main Street, Williamstown 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Cindy Ray at (859) 824-6415.

MONDAY, JUNE 15

- Grant County Chamber of Commerce at 105 Barnes Road, Williamstown, at 8 a.m. For more information contact Jamie Baker at (859) 393-8390.

- Dry Ridge City Council, 31 Broadway, Dry Ridge at 6 p.m. For more information, call the City Office at (859) 824-3335.

- Williamstown Senior Center, 400 North Main Street, Williamstown, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Cindy Ray at (859) 8246415.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

- Williamstown City Council, 400 North Main Street, Williamstown at 6 p.m.. For more information, contact the City Office at (859) 824-6351.

- Grant County Fiscal Court, at Old Courthouse 101 North Main Street at 6 p.m. Contact the Fiscal Court Office at (859) 823-7561 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

- Williamstown Kiwanis, LaRosa's, 96 C Blackburn Lane, Dry Ridge at noon. For more information, contact WilliamstownKyKiwanisClub@gmail.com

- Williamstown Senior Center, 400 North Main Street, Williamstown, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Cindy Ray at (859) 824-6415.

- Grant County Resource Team Grant County Extension Office, 105 Baton Rouge Road, Williamstown; 10 a.m. For more information (859) 824-3600.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the board for Bullock Pen Water District needs to change the date of the meeting for June. The meeting will now take place on Thursday, June 18th. The water meeting will still be held at 1:00 pm EST / 12:00 pm CST. The sewer meeting will still be held at 2:30 pm EST / 1:30 pm CST.

FUN

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of bright yellow and orange marigolds, great food, live music, a parade, a classic car show, dancing, inflatables and lots of family fun.

Event schedule

- Car Show from 3-6 p.m. in the Williamstown Baptist Church parking lot

- Sami Riggs goes on from 3-4 p.m. at the main stage downtown

- Hills of Kentucky Cloggers will perform from 4-4:30 p.m., also at the main stage.

- The cloggers will also be performing from 4:45-5:30 p.m. at the William Arnold Cabin.

- What About Jane takes the main stage from 4:30-6 p.m.

- The parade, on Main Street, will start at 6 p.m.

- Backwoods Holler performs on the main stage from 6:30-8 p.m.

- County Wide closes down the party, performing from 8:30-10 p.m.

CHALK THE PARK

The Dry Ridge Fire Department invites everyone to come to Piddle Park at noon for a fun community event. Meet your local fire fighters and enjoy exploring fire trucks and other vehicles.

Children's Hospital's new Air Care helicopter and Grant County's Air Evac 133 helicopter will be making a special appearance during the event, according to Assistant Chief and EMS Director Kevin Stave. Tours of the helicopters will be provided.

In addition, there will be chalk art, face painting, free raffle prizes and free food.

To beat the heat, there will be a fire truck sprinkler and an inflatable water slide.

BLUEGRASS JAMMIN' IN THE PARK

Enjoy Bluegrass music on the lawn at Grant County Park on June 13 from 6-8 p.m. Gather your lawn chairs, pack a cooler and invite a few friends to kick back or dance the evening away.

Two more Jammin' in the Park events are scheduled for the summer on July 11 and Aug. 8.

The next scheduled event at the park is an Ice Cream Social on June 27 from 1-3 p.m. at the Oaks Grove Venue. Live music will be provided by Taylor Henry.

HALT

FROM PAGE A1

to clock in and out at will, Maddox noted.

5. Significant audit adjustments were required to correct the financial account records.

He said normally there may be a few changes to numbers when he works on a city audit but nothing material.

"In fiscal year '25 there were significant changes to the numbers as originally presented until we got to the final numbers, significant differences. So the numbers that you saw during fiscal year '25—if you saw any—were not correct," he said.

"Basically, your accounting function just came to a halt at some point in fiscal year '25. It just stopped being done."

Henson noted that a couple of years ago, when he was on the council, he recalled Maddox mentioning "possible issues that you were foreseeing" He asked Maddox if he talked to the mayor or clerk about it at the time.

Maddox replied that he had told them both the city was "falling behind" and needed to have help in the clerk's office.

He said the city has good policies and procedures in place, it's a matter of following them. Fryman is doing that, he concluded.

Smith broached the subject of whether there were any possible "legal repercussions that the city might pursue."

Henson said, "We have been waiting for this report ... in order to go further. Quite aware of the overpayments; who got them, and from here on we will take it further."

"This city always had strong accounting, record keeping, and it just went off the cliff," Maddox said.

The financial statement itself earned a clean opinion once the chaos in the clerk's office was finally tamed and the dust settled.

"In spite of all these weakness, the city had a good financial year—pure luck, maybe, but you did."

Council unanimously approved the audit report.

ORDINANCES

- The first reading of Ordinance 2026-05 "Amendment to the Lake Ordinance" was conducted. The ordinance establishes permit approval for fishing tournaments at Lake Williamstown.

During public comment avid fisherman Zachary Williams spoke out in favor of the ordinance, describing crowded conditions on the lake.

"I see first hand from a conservation perspective how hard that lake gets hit every year—especially this year—by tournaments ... it is nothing to see four, sometimes five, tournaments a week."

He said the fish feel pressure; weights of winning fish are lower than in the past.

The ordinance requires a permit for any organized tournament with prizes for winners involving 10 or more boats. At this time, there is no cost for the permit.

As a boat captain for the Grant County High School fishing team, Williams wanted to know whether their Tuesday night practices would

be considered tournaments since there are often more than 10 boats and winners are given baits or a rod.

Henson said, "My feeling offhand is no." He went on to say the ordinance was designed to improve safety, "not to make things harder for anybody."

- The first reading of Ordinance 2026-06 "Fiscal Year 2026-27" was conducted.

"It's a strong budget, a good budget," commented Councilmember Rick Skinner.

As first readings, no actions were necessary.

The meeting also included an executive session "pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1)(g) discussions regarding a business entity concerning a specific proposal as open discussion would jeopardize the citing, retention, expansion or upgrading of the business: and KRS 61.810(1)(c) discussions of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency."

The next meeting of the Williamstown City Council will be Tuesday, June 16, at 6 p.m. at the City Building, 400 North Main Street.

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