

Most Valuable Ambassador



Grant County Chamber of Commerce Director Jamie Baker presented Nancy Duley of Crittenden with the 2026 Most Valuable Ambassador Award at a recent chamber breakfast. Ambassadors are chamber members who volunteer to assist with member recruitment and chamber events as well as help with ribbon cuttings and grand openings.

Photo submitted



Jamie Rowe

This young coyote, currently in the care of Grit and Grace Wildlife Rehabilitation, will one day face a world that fears and misunderstands her.

Coyotes play beneficial role in our ecosystem

JAMIE ROWE
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, GRIT AND GRACE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

The photo is of one of the baby coyotes currently in our care. She doesn't know hate. She doesn't know cruelty, judgment or the way humans can decide something is "bad" simply because they don't understand it. She doesn't know fear the way the world has taught people to fear animals like her. She doesn't know myths, lies or the generations of hatred attached to her species before she even had a chance to exist.

She doesn't know that some people would look at her tiny paws, innocent eyes and soft little face and still call her a monster. Right now, she only knows what it means to be alive. She knows warmth. She knows the comfort of her siblings. She knows curiosity, instinct and the simple beauty of existing in the natural world exactly as she was created to do. She doesn't know greed, malice or evil... because those are human

ideas that humans project onto wildlife we refuse to understand.

But one day, she will learn.

She'll learn that humans fear what they don't take the time to understand.

She'll learn that coyotes are blamed for everything because myths and lies are easier for people to believe than truth.

She'll learn that the same world she helps keep balanced will still call her a pest while benefiting from the role she plays in nature every single day.

Coyotes are not villains. They are intelligent, adaptable and deeply important animals that help ecosystems survive and stay healthy. They control rodent populations, clean up carrion and maintain balance in ways most people will never understand.

When I look at this baby, I don't see something dangerous. I see innocence. I see a life that deserves compassion instead of hatred. Respect, instead of fear. But sadly, the world will probably teach her otherwise. And I think that says far more about us than it ever will about her.

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK

10 YEARS AGO ... JUNE 30, 2016

- Work continues around the clock in anticipation of the Ark Encounter's July 7 opening day. Co-founder Mark Looy said some staff and contract workers may have to put in 18-hour days to get everything finished.

- Grant County's total 2016-17 budget topped \$11.1 million. This includes \$5.57 million in the General Fund, \$4.1 million in the Jail Fund and \$1.44 million in the Road Fund.

25 YEARS AGO ... JULY 5, 2001

- Births announced this week: Dylan James Lake was born to James and Sharla Lake on April 4; Jonathon Randall Barnes was born to Chris

and Lisa Barnes on Oct. 7, 2000.

- Matthew Colson's entry was the recipient of the Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Female honor at the 2001 Kentucky Junior Livestock Expo-East.

- Adam K. Rich received his doctorate in dentistry from the University of Louisville Dental School on May 12.

50 YEARS AGO ... JULY 1, 1976

- Births announced this week: Carrie Margaret Ackman was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Ackman on June 21; Anita Gertrude Kinman was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jr. Kinman on June 18.

- The Mt. Zion Bank was declared

insolvent and turned over the the FDIC, which will make good on deposits. The bank had been in operation more than 30 years. The last visitor before the bank closed its doors for good was Mr. R.L. Blackburn.

- The Mason postmistress, Mrs. Kelly Bruce, reported the post office will not be closing after all.

- Rickey Layne Simpson will be included in the 1976 Prep Basketball "Athletes of the Year" annual. The annual is sponsored by Coach & Athlete magazine.

- Fairview Christian Church held a 100th anniversary celebration last Sunday. About 150 people were in attendance.

DUMPSTER

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was thrown against the building beside it.

The wood chipper is being deployed by the road department, he said. Anyone with branches to dispose of should move them to the edge of the road.

The county's dumpsters were opened for people to dispose of perishable food ruined when power was out. He said "quite a few" took advantage of the offer.

"The side of our building inspector's truck caved in pretty bad; the tornado took this dumpster behind the courthouse across the road and slammed in the side of the truck. So going forward we're going to put a curb out there. I never dreamed that dumpster would go somewhere. It's not on wheels, it's on a skid."

District 1 Magistrate Jacquelyn Riley shared an update from Williamstown Mayor David Henson regarding storm recovery. His reported power restored, with the exception of a few individual instances, and urged people to "keep track of costs associated with the storm ... in the event the community qualifies to receive recovery dollars."

ACTIONS

- Court approved a motion to go into the annual public hearing regarding the use of County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Fund.

Opening the floor for comment, Dills said, "We are receiving shy of \$1.1 million on the county road aid for the road department, and we currently have around \$31,150 in the LGEA program."

He explained the funds are budgeted for use in paving county roads and paying road department personnel.

No one in attendance made a comment, and the court adjourned the public hearing and moved back into open session.

Court approved the proposed use of CRA and LGEA funds.

- Court approved claims on the general fund, road fund and jail fund, along with all transferred funds dated June 23, 2026.

"This closes out our fiscal year; tonight will," Dills said.

- Court approved the transfer of excess funds from the Medical Reimbursement Account to the General Fund Account.

Dills said the amount is "around \$51,400—and that's funds that have been sitting in the account and not being utilized at this time for any medical reimbursements."

Riley clarified that the

unused funds were for employee flexible spending."

Court approved the transfer.

- Court approved accepting the Grant County Sheriff's tax settlement, prepared by Monnie Leap.

Dills thanked Leap, saying she has been doing the tax settlement for years, and her fee is reasonable.

- Dills conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. 0011-2026-0303 Goderwis Zone Change.

Dills explained the change had already come before Planning and Zoning and passed. He said it involves a roughly 40 acre property on the north side of Kendall Road. The owners want to separate out a 1.7928 acre tract for their daughter to build a home. The zoning request is to change the property from A1 to R1A.

- Dills conducted the second reading of Ordinance No. 0011-2026-0302, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. He said it was approved on May 26 by the court and forwarded to the Department of Local Government as required, where it was approved May 29 by Robert Brown, the state local finance officer.

It passed unanimously.

- Salaries for the employees of the Grant County Fiscal Court, Road Department, Sheriff's Office and Detention Center were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dills invited Sheriff Dennis Switzer to address the court regarding a proposed sheriff's app.

"In the past 12 months, Grant County has had 26 drug overdose calls. These consist of other drugs, not only opioids.

"The number is probably a little low due to calls coming in to dispatch could come in as an unconscious person, a medical emergency, breathing problems or any other thing that's sent in to dispatch, and then dispatch categorizes it as something else," Switzer explained.

He said heroin and fentanyl continue to be a problem here and nationwide.

Switzer requested "opioid settlement funds to build an app that would provide resources for opioid treatment, prevention and education."

The sheriff's app would be available on Apple and Google and be free to the public. Incident updates, road closures, accidents, press releases and wanted notices, among other information, will be available.

He said the app will have an icon on the home page with maps and contact information for treatment facilities.

The cost would be \$5,399 for a term of three years and renewable for \$1,800 per year after that.

"The sheriff's association uses a similar app," he said.

Riley asked if statistics on usage of the app would be available. Switzer said the "full blown version" that provides such information would cost \$17,000.

CITIZEN'S ADDRESS

During citizen's address, David Rose noted there was not a line item in the budget for the ambulance tax and no indication of the amount of money taken in for that purpose.

Dills explained the special taxing districts are separate entities and are audited individually.

"That don't work. Not in this day and age," Rose objected, citing a need for transparency.

Riley told him the court is always accepting resumes for people to serve on boards.

"You couldn't take me on that board," Rose shot back.

"When do the citizens get a report about this?" he wondered.

"If they come to the meetings," Dills responded.

"No, it should be published somewhere," Rose objected.

Dills said such information is published on the Department of Local Government's website.

The next meeting of the Grant County Fiscal Court will be Tuesday, July 7, at 6 p.m. in the courthouse, 101 North Main Street, Williamstown.

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