News of Record

LARUE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

RETIRED JUDGE C. DEREK REED, TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED AS SPECIAL JUDGE OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OCT. 21

Adrian Wayne Buckner, DOB 1964. Speeding 26 mph or greater over limit, careless driving and failure to wear seat belts. Plea of not guilty entered. Pretrial conference Nov. 4. (2026)

Patricia Greenwell, DOB 1975. Alcohol intoxication in a public place. Plea of not guilty entered. Pretrial conference Nov. 4. (2026)

Colton Michael Heibert, DOB 1995. Driving DUI suspended license (third offense, aggravator). Plea of not guilty entered. Pretrial conference Nov. 18. (2026)

Dylan Tyler Nalley, DOB 2005. Careless driving, improper lane usage/vehicles keep to right except to pass and failure to produce insurance card. Count three dismissed without prejudice



per LaRue County Attorney's Office. Continue to Jan. 20, 2027, for Alive at 25. (2026)

Jaime Denise Nix, DOB 1976. No/expired registration plates. Case dismissed per LaRue County Attorney's Office. (2026)

Jason W. Rymer, DOB 1976. Fourth-degree assault (minor injury). Plea of not guilty entered. Pretrial conference Dec. 2. (2026)

Misty Dawn Smith, DOB 1985. Insufficient head lamps, no tail lamps, failure to produce insurance card and failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security (first offense). Counts one, two and three dismissed per LaRue County Attorney's Office. (2026)

Gale Y. Toomer, DOB 1958. Operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol (first offense), possession of an open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle, no/expired Kentucky registration receipt and no/expired registration plates. Plea of guilty entered for count two. Count one dismissed without prejudice per LaRue County Attorney's Office. Counts three and four dismissed per LaRue County Attorney's Office. (2026)

Michael David Ferguson, DOB 1964. Fourth-degree assault – domestic violence (minor injury), first-degree strangulation – domestic violence related and third-degree terroristic threatening. Preliminary hearing Oct. 28. (2026)

Note: The above information includes a weekly listing of cases heard by the LaRue County District Court. Individuals are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

JAIL LOG

Bookings at The LaRue County Detention Center from Monday, Oct. 19 to Monday, Oct. 26.

- **Derrick Raymond Gribbins**, 46 of New Hope. Execution of a Nelson Co. bench warrant for failure to appear.
- **Stanely Jones**, 62 of Louisville. Execution of two LaRue Co. bench warrants for failure to appear.
- **Kevin Lee Worner**, 41 of Buffalo. Third-degree criminal trespassing (first offense).
- **Anthony Wayne Shell**, 49 of Lexington. Fourth-degree assault (minor injury) and second-degree criminal mischief.
- **Walter Allen Gaulke**, 59 of Buffalo. Execution of a Hardin Co. bench warrant for failure to appear.
- **Raymond Pierce**, 26 of Vine Grove. Execution of a LaRue Co. indictment warrant for complicity to third-degree burglary, complicity to theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others valued more than $500 but less than $1,000 and first-degree persistent felony offender.
- **William Sidebottom**, 30 of Hodgenville. Execution of a LaRue Co. indictment warrant for complicity to third-degree burglary, complicity to theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others valued more than $500 but less than $1,000 and first-degree persistent felony offender.
- **Ryan Skaggs**, 35 of Hodgenville. Execution of a LaRue Co. bench warrant for failure to appear.
- **Haley Manska**, 25 of Hodgenville. Execution of a Hardin Co. complaint warrant for theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others valued more than $1,000 but less than $10,000.

Note: The above information includes a weekly list of bookings into the LaRue County Detention Center. The individuals listed in the log have been arrested and charged with a crime. All individuals arrested are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers are listed on deeds filed at the LaRue County Clerk's Office in Hodgenville. FMV means fair market value and is typically based upon assessed taxable value.

Stan Routt, as Executor of the Estate of Joseph Oliphant, to Richard E. Croft. Sonora Road, Sonora. $150,700.

Michael A. Barnes and Erin M. Barnes to Thomas K. Hoppes and Macey L. Hoppes. Lyons Station Road, New Haven. $180,000.

Chastity Lynn Walters and David C. Walters, Trustees of the Corey and Chastity Walters Living Trust, to James Garfield Lipscomb and Andrea M. Lipscomb. Thompson Hill



Road, Hodgenville. $587,500.

Patricia Ann Fisher to Patricia Ann Fisher, Trustee of the Patricia Ann Fisher Revocable Living Trust. Goodin Williams Road, Hodgenville. $1, FMV: $230,000.

Joshua Whelan and Katherine J. Whelan to Rachael B. Heliker. Brience Street, Hodgenville. $450,000.

Annemarie Bixenman to Ryan Jackson. South L&N Turnpike, Magnolia. $250,000.

Andrew Noah Acjermann and Anna C. Ackermann to Judy Sanders. Indian Trail, Hodgenville. $190,000.

Mark T. Tucker and Shelby J. Tucker to Betsy Ellen Tucker. Bennett Road, Buffalo. No monetary consideration, FMV: $25,000.

Betsy Ellen Tucker, Mark T. Tucker and Shelby J. Tucker to Betsy Ellen Tucker. Bennett Road, Buffalo. No monetary consideration, FMV: $1,000,000.

Betsy Ellen Tucker to Betsy Tucker, Trustee of the Betsy Tucker Revocable Living Trust. Bennett Road, Buffalo. No monetary consideration, FMV: $1,025,000.

City approves increased property tax rate

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

Property owners within the city of Hodgenville may see a slight increase in their tax bills following the city's approval to increase its 2025 property tax rate.

Meeting in a special-called meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 21, the council conducted a public hearing and second reading of its proposed rate. The city proposed increasing its real and personal property tax rates from 10.9 cents per $100 in assessed value to 11.1 cents. The new rate is expected to produce $256,278 in revenue, which is approximately $11,000 more than last year.

The 2026 compensating rate – the rate which would provide no new revenue over the previous year – is 10.7 cents per $100 in assessed value. It would produce a revenue of $247,043.

Any additional tax dollars received from growth in assessment values will be proportionately spent within all city departments and programs which utilize local tax dollars in order to meet the operational costs associated with providing basic level of service to the community.

Per state law, government agencies wishing to levy a tax that exceeds the compensating rate are required to publish intent of such and also host a public hearing before the tax rate's approval. The city compiled with these requirements. No individual from the public spoke during the hearing.

The proposed rate was passed unanimously with a motion by Rita Williams and a second by Larry Davis. Hodgenville Mayor Jim Phelps stated that an individual with a property assessment of $300,000 can expect to see a $6 increase in their city tax bill.

Property tax bills are anticipated to be mailed by the end of October.

The council also voted to concur with the Land of Lincoln Planning and Zoning Commission on the denial of a rezoning request. Ira Bloyd requested to zone his property on Strange Road from B3 to R2. The request was recommended for denial because it did not conform to the comprehensive plan and because the land is in between two commercial tracts.

The next meeting of the Hodgenville City Council will be at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9 at Hodgenville City Hall.

SIMMS

FROM PAGE A1

pages so they are in compliance with the statute. They also accussed committee members of misconduct during and after signature collection and Metcalf of improperly and erroneously verifying signatures.

In his 39-page ruling filed with the LaRue County Clerk's Office on Tuesday, Oct. 20, Simms gave an overview of the case up to the trial point, including his decision to deny multiple motions to dismiss and an attempt by the Board to include a forensic document examiner the business day before the trial. He then broke his decision down into five points: the affidavit of the petition committee, substantially uniform, unlawful and misleading solicitation of signatures, signature verification and fraud.

THE AFFIDAVIT OF THE PETITION COMMITTEE

Per KRS 132.017, which governs recall tax petitions, any three qualified voters who reside in the area where a tax levy (whose rate will generate more than a 4% revenue increase) will be imposed may commence petition proceedings to protest the passage of a tax by filing an affidavit with the county clerk. This affidavit must state that the three qualified voters constitute the members of the petition committee, the petition committee will be responsible for circulating the petition, the petition committee will file the petition in the proper form by the statute deadline, the names and addresses of the petition committee members and the address to which all notices to the committee are to be sent. This affidavit is then printed in the newspaper of general circulation within the county; in this case, the affidavit was published in The LaRue County Herald News on Oct. 8, 2025.

During the trial, the petition committee members, David Ragland, William "Bill" Manning and Jerry Bird, provided inconsistent testimony about the affidavit's execution: Ragland could not recall who was present at the time of signing, whether he was placed under oath and guessed that the signing occurred at Magnolia Bank; Manning remembered signing at Magnolia Bank and that an oath was administered, though he stated only he and Dr. Gil Myers were present; and Bird could not remember who was present when he signed, the location of the signing or whether he was placed under oath and guessed that the signing occur at the clerk's office.

The Board argues that for an affidavit to be valid, it must be made under oath and in jurat, which means that the signer must physically appear before the notary to sign the document. And, because of the inconsistencies within the testimony, they assert that the affidavit filed with the county clerk was not valid and therefore no petition committee ever came into existence. Judge Simms, however, disagrees.

"This Court believes that the petition committee's inability to recall these events should not result in the affidavit being declared invalid," he wrote, noting that it would have been beneficial to have heard testimony from the notary. "In addition, the face of the affidavit appears to comply with all legal requirements…"

SUBSTANTIALLY UNIFORM

KRS 132.107 also governs the petition itself, including the requirement that all pages be

SEE SIMMS/PAGE A4

Patching coming soon to LaRue

BY VICTORIA COX
EDITOR

Roadways throughout LaRue County may soon improve.

Meeting in a special-called meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 21, the LaRue County Fiscal Court considered a resolution with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to accept funding from the Rural Secondary Program. To be used for the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of secondary and rural roads, the money will be used to fund patching to seven roadways in LaRue County.

Roads that will see improvements include Boundary Oak Road, Brience Street, Hawkins Road, Keith Road, Peppers Road, Rose Road and Tonieville Road (two patches). The entire project will cost $75,044, however LaRue County will only be responsible for half of that ($37,522).

The resolution was unanimously approved. LaRue County Judge Executive Blake Durrett said Scotty's Contracting & Stone will begin the work as soon as the agreement is returned from the state.

The next meeting of the LaRue County Fiscal Court will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

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Widows' Walk

Upcoming Opportunities

For More Information contact Donna Coffey at 270-774-1574.

NOVEMBER

3 Keep Stepping Forward
10 am
LaRue Co. Public Library

10 Widows' Walk
Parkway Baptist Church
7 pm

13 Widows' Walk
Parkway Baptist Church
7 pm

14 Hope for the Holiday Event
Parkway Baptist Church
9 am – 12 pm

19 Widows' Walk
Parkway Baptist Church
11 am