

THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT



CLOUDY 61 • 38 FORECAST

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Routine traffic stop ends in two arrests

Hayley Adkins

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The Maysville Police Department (MPD) recently conducted a traffic stop, resulting in two arrests.

According to the MPD, MPD Sergeant Michael Reese conducted a traffic stop on U.S. 68 near the Maysville Community and Technical college on Jan. 4 at approximately 2:20 a.m. The MPD stated that Reese discovered that the driver, Sarah Baker,

of Corinth, Ky., had a warrant out for her arrest for the charge of second-degree assault.

Joshua Choate of Mr. Vernon, Ind., as well as a man who identified himself as Choate's brother, were passengers in the vehicle. MPD officers Austin Fraley and Andrew Staggs reportedly spoke with them after spotting two firearms through the glass of the vehicle's back window.

"One firearm was a Remington .22 Rifle,

and the other was a Ross .410 gauge shotgun," stated the arrest citation. "The above male advised that him and his brother were trying to shoot deer earlier in the day, and that he knew the firearms were in the trunk."

MPD Officers expressed that after running his information, it was ascertained that Choate was a prior felon. He was handcuffed and placed under arrest before being transported to the

Mason County Detention Center.

MPD Interim Police Chief Chris Conley explained that he wanted to share the incident with the community due to the fact that it involves convicted felons being in possession of firearms.

"The biggest reason for posting is, it's about firearms involved, and those guys, anytime they're out there and around firearms, I like to let the community know that they

were removed," he expressed.

Conley further stated that he is proud of the officers involved in the case, noting that they went "beyond a traffic stop."

"Those guys did a great job not only, number one, of checking the vehicle, but two on checking the people, the occupants inside the vehicle and that's a go beyond the stop," stated Conley. "I share to praise them and two to show the commu-



SARAH BAKER

JOSHUA CHOATE

nity that they are doing a dangerous job on it and doing a great job at that."

A statement released by the MPD reiterates that all suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

MFD releases annual report

Lauren Tatman

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To ring in the new year, the Maysville Fire Department (MFD) recently released its data regarding community service calls in 2025.

According to the MFD, in 2025, it reported a total of 3,903 ambulance calls (2,989 within Maysville and 914 in Mason County) and 762 fire calls, totaling 4,665 runs.

"To put this growth into perspective, back in 2016, MFD responded to 2,575 runs. Due to the steady increase in call volume, staffing was increased from six to eight personnel per shift that same year. Fast forward to today, and our call volume has nearly doubled," the MFD stated.

In 2025, the MFD recorded 4,910 fire train-

ing hours, averaging 182 hours per service member.

"None of this would be possible without our dedicated firefighters and EMS personnel. Our staff continues to work long hours and nights to ensure that Maysville and Mason County are never left without coverage," the MFD said. "We remain hopeful that future staffing increases will allow us to continue improving response times and ensure residents receive an ambulance without delay when they need it most.

"Thank you to our incredible team for their professionalism, dedication and commitment to serving our community day in and day out. And thank you to the citizens of Maysville and Mason County for your continued support," it concluded.

MCPL announces

January programming

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The Mason County Public Library recently released its calendar of events for the month of January.

The library's regular programs for children ages 12 and below will continue in January, including Montessori & Me (Jan. 2, 16, 30; 10:30-11:30 a.m.), Pretend Play (Jan. 9, 23; 10:30-11:30 a.m.) and S.T.E.A.M. LEGO Club (Jan. 5, 4:30-5:30 p.m.).

Storytime, for children ages zero to five years, will take place on Jan. 8, 15, 22, and 29, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. This month's theme is winter, with topics such as winter mythical creatures and penguins. Children who attend will sing songs, read stories and participate in STEAM activities.

S.T.A.R. Storytime will also continue, with children ages zero to five meeting on Saturdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m., and children ages five to 10 meeting on Thursdays at 6 p.m.

On Friday, Jan. 9, Nerds & Nostalgia will meet from 3:30-5 p.m. This meeting will be for children ages eight to 12 and will give participants the chance to discuss pop culture and explore old-school media. The next meeting, for teens ages 13-18, will take place on Jan. 23.

The MCPL will host several new children and family events in January.

On Monday, Jan. 12, and Tuesday, Jan. 20, the MCPL's Construct

It! programs will celebrate National Tea Month by giving children ages six to 12 the chance to build their own papier-mâché teacups. Registration is required for this event.

On Thursday, Jan. 9, and Tuesday, Jan. 12, the MCPL's Art Clubs will teach children ages six to 12 the art of reductive weaving, inspired by artist Lenore Tawney. Attendees will use painted burlap to create their own unique art pieces. Registration is required for the event on Jan. 9.

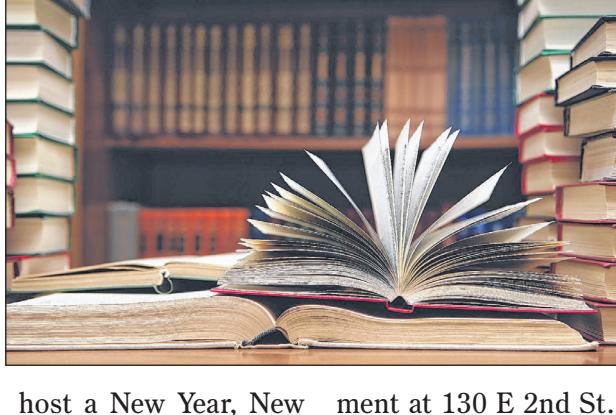
On Wednesday, Jan. 21, the Lit Kids Book Club will read and discuss books about mythical creatures, including dragons.

Afterward, attendees will create a dragon-themed craft. The event is open to children ages six to 12.

On Friday, Jan. 23, the MCPL will host a Reading Dragons Party from 5-7 p.m. The event will celebrate the library's launch of the Reading Dragons program, designed to spark imagination and encourage literacy in school-age children.

"Celebrate with stories, activities, and dragon-themed crafts for children and families," states the library. "Learn how to take part in the program, pick up your first Reading Dragons materials, and enjoy a magical time with fellow readers. Costumes are welcome, and curiosity is required!"

On Thursday, Jan. 29, the library will



host a New Year, New Career job fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in partnership with the Kentucky Career Center.

This event is open to all job-seekers and will feature local employers and career resources.

The MCPL will also continue to host its regular teens and adults programming in January.

These programs include Lofi & Homework (Jan. 2, 16; 1-3 p.m.), Dungeons & Dragons (Jan. 6, 20; 5:30-7:30 p.m.), Open Studio Art (Jan. 8; 4-5 p.m.), Zine-Meet (Jan. 13; 3-4 p.m.), Teen Book Club (Jan. 16, 4-6 p.m.), Teen Chess Club (Jan. 27; 4:30-5:30 p.m.), Yoga (Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29; 4-5:30 p.m.), Bibliophile Book Club (Jan. 12; 4:30-5:30 p.m.), Tabletop Tuesdays (Jan. 13, 27; 5:30-7:30 p.m.), Pretty Poisons (Jan. 14; 4:30-5:30 p.m.), Trivia Night (Jan. 20; 5:30-7:30 p.m.), Writers Workshop (Jan. 27, 7-8 p.m.) and Morning Mug Club (Jan. 28; 10:30-11:30 a.m.).

The Booking It Downtown program will continue meeting weekly from 9-10 a.m. on the second floor of the Buffalo Trace District Health Depart-

ment at 130 E 2nd St., Maysville.

Peppers and Pages will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 6-7 p.m. This book club is only for adults ages 18 and up and will feature suggestive content as well as spicy foods. The MCPL advises those with food sensitivities to attend at their own discretion.

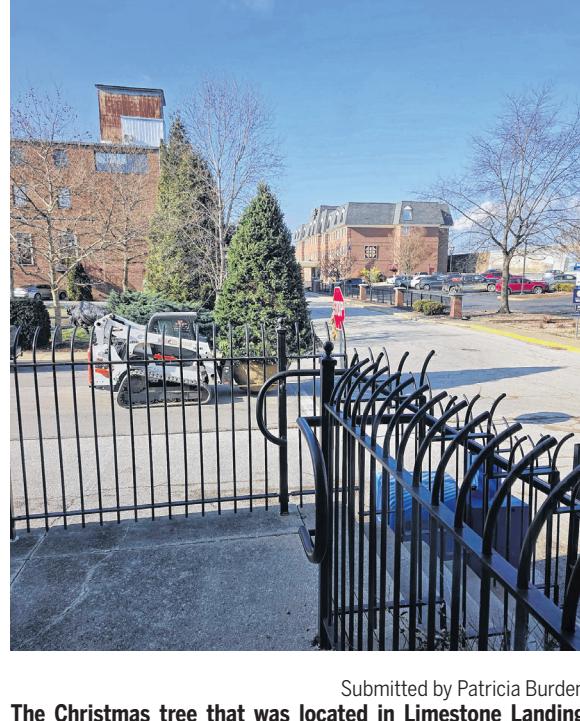
On Thursday, Jan. 22, the Studio Art program will teach attendees how to make their own bookends in celebration of the new year.

On Monday, Jan. 26, Planning with Heather and Meal Planning will hold a class on freezer foods and storage methods from 4-5 p.m.

Finally, on Friday, Jan. 30, the library will hold its first Teen Greenhouse Group meeting from 4-5 p.m. Due to the cold weather, the meeting will be held in the Community Room. Registration for this event is required.

"Each teen will leave with a Kokedama, a decorative style of displaying plants originating from 17th-century Japan, along with care instructions to keep it thriving! You may get a little dirty, so please dress appropriately," the MCPL concluded.

So long, Christmas tree



Submitted by Patricia Burden
The Christmas tree that was located in Limestone Landing was removed on Wednesday, Jan. 7.



Ponto the office dog says:

People who think they know it all are especially annoying to those of us who do.

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