

# THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

## Friday Photos

Big, white, fluffiest

PAGE B8



## Robert Roe

Coasting through amusement park season PAGE B7



CLOUDY 79 • 54 FORECAST

Friday, May 29, 2026

maysville-online.com

To access our online products, subscribers must activate their digital account, call (606) 564-9091.

Find breaking news updates on our website, as well as a daily replica of our paper in our eEdition for both printed and digital days.

TO START YOUR SUBSCRIPTION Visit us at [maysville-online.com/subscribe](https://maysville-online.com/subscribe) or call (606) 564-9091 x1243

# Local business owners arrested for theft

Hayley Adkins  
hadkins@cmpapers.com

The owners of the Maysville business J & S Monuments have been arrested after multiple individuals filed reports stating that they have not yet received their loved ones' monuments.

Johnathan Tranbarger, 41, and Christopher Smoot, 33, are each facing two counts of alleged theft by failure to make required disposition of property between \$1,000



Christopher Smoot



Johnathan Tranbarger

Courtesy of the Mason County Detention Center

and \$10,000. The men were arrested by Fleming County Sheriff Tim Smith and are lodged at the Mason County Detention Center on \$10,000

bonds. According to Maysville Police Chief Patrick Boggs, over 35 reports relating to the business have been filed in the last three days.

"It's sad. It's very sad," Boggs stated in an interview.

He added that the Maysville Police Department (MPD) is currently filing reports for all individuals with claims against Tranbarger and Smoot.

"Each person that made

a payment to them is a victim, so we sign a complaint on all of them that we can prove that they signed a receipt receiving money — cash or check — and then we present it to the county attorney and we sign a complaint," explained Boggs. "If they exchanged money here in Maysville, we'll do the investigation, but some people, we're finding, exchanged money in Flemingsburg, so we're sending those people to

Office." He added that the MPD is asking any individuals planning to file to bring proof of purchase.

"If they can have any and all paperwork, including checks that have been cashed and any signed contracts and receipts, it just really expedites it," Boggs expressed.

He noted that some of the reports denote incidents dating back to 2024.

Boggs then explained that individuals who

would like to file a report may do so at any time.

"We're getting people in and out of here within a 10-minute time frame," he stated. "They can come any time. Any officer, any shift, if they want to wait 'til they get off work, bring it down after work. We'll accommodate all hours."

If an individual filing a report does not live in the area, they may contact the MPD to determine whether they can email documents to the station.



## Vehicle collision in Lewisburg under investigation by KSP

Hayley Adkins  
hadkins@cmpapers.com

Kentucky Highway 11 was shut down for several hours yesterday evening following a collision, per the Lewisburg Fire Department (LFD).

According to Mason County Sheriff's Deputy Colton Linville, a 2003 Mini Cooper operated by Pedro Cox, 19, of Paintsville, Ky. was traveling northbound on KY 11 when it struck a 2023 Kia sedan traveling southbound.

Following the accident, at 8:37 p.m., the LFD announced that Kentucky Highway 11 would be closed while emergency personnel assisted at the scene and conducted an investigation. Travelers were advised to use alternate routes.

The driver of the Kia, 72-year-old Daniel Rolph of Flemingsburg, Ky., was transported to Meadowview Regional Medical Center before being flown to the University of Cincinnati Hospital. Cox was transported to Meadowview Regional Medical Center before being flown to the University of Kentucky Hospital.

Linville noted that the Kentucky State Police (KSP) was called in to conduct a collision reconstruction. The investigation remains open.

He further expressed that the KSP and Mason County Sheriff's Office received assistance from the LFD, Maysville/Mason County Emergency Management and the Maysville Police Department.



Hank Graddy, attorney with W. H. Graddy and Associates, speaks to the Mason County Fiscal Court on Friday, May 22.

Lauren Tatman/The Ledger Independent

## Attorneys and residents speak on proposed data center project at fiscal court meeting

Lauren Tatman  
ltatman@cmpapers.com

**EDITORS' NOTE: This is Part Two of a two-part series covering the May 22 Mason County Fiscal Court meeting and the second reading of Ordinance 26-03, a zoning map amendment. Part One included an overview of the second reading and vote, with Part Two focusing on the individuals who spoke at the meeting.**

The Mason County Fiscal Court has passed an ordinance rezoning approximately 2,080 acres of agricultural land

to I-3 industrial for a proposed hyperscale data center project. Three lawyers, an engineer, residents and others spoke at a special meeting held by the Mason County Fiscal Court on Friday, May 22.

First, Tanner Nichols with FBT Gibbons discussed what he had presented at a Maysville-Mason County Joint Planning (JPC) public hearing in March.

"The real question is, why do we think this can be good for Mason County?" asked Nichols. "And it's really an economic argument, economic development of what it can be done."

His presentation emphasized that, if approved, this would be one of the largest economic projects in the history of Kentucky. Nichols expressed that some of the things brought to the county would include electrical infrastructure improvements, water and wastewater improvements, road improvements, funding for the city police and public projects that would benefit taxpayers.

"That is what I want to emphasize, is the economic development here," he said. "And that we had two nights of public input from eight

hours of testimony, and the Joint Planning Commission said, four-to-one, 'We think this is a good idea and is in agreement with the comprehensive plan.'"

Nick Comer, External Affairs Manager at East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC), stated that, from EKPC's perspective, the benefits of the project extend beyond the borders of Mason County.

"In fact, it affects 1.2 million people in 89 counties, and basically, that is the people that are served by the 16 owner-member

See FISCAL | 2A

## Kentucky Association of Manufacturers presents survey at Chamber meeting

Peyton Dunaway  
pdunaway@cmpapers.com

On Wednesday, May 27, representatives from the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KAM) met with the Maysville Area Chamber of Commerce to discuss the 2026 Wage and Workforce

Study. KAM Director of Workforce Development Zach Morgan stated that KAM is an organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of manufacturers through legislation, networking, visibility and education, which is conducted through news

briefings, member newsletters and its annual Wage & Workforce Study, which he called "our jewel of the crown."

According to KAM's website, the study is "a comprehensive report on the state of manufacturing employment in Kentucky that allows manu-

facturers to make strategic decisions to better run their businesses and help educational institutions prepare our future workforce for a career in manufacturing."

It adds, "All manufacturers in Kentucky are eligible and invited to participate."

The 2026 study is open from May 4 to June 15, with results to be released this fall.

Morgan stated that in 2025, the study recorded results from 121 Kentucky companies across 110 manufacturing jobs. The survey's questions concerned benefits,

recruitment, employment, retention efforts and both starting and five-year wages for production occupations.

After reviewing last year's data, Mason County Judge Executive Owen McNeill asked

See CHAMBER | 4A

**2026 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 5.3L V8**

**0% APR**

For well-qualified buyers when you finance with GM Financial<sup>®</sup>

OR

**\$7,000 TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE**

When you trade-in an eligible vehicle<sup>1</sup>

INCLUDES: \$4,250 Cash Allowance + \$1,750 Bonus Cash + \$1,000 Trade Assistance

PLUS

Eligible Military Personnel can get

**\$1,000 BONUS CASH**

on most Chevy models<sup>2</sup>

**MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH**

Together let's drive™

CHEVROLET

**Why Buy from the Best Deal Dealer?**

**McFarland Chevrolet**

**Together Let's Drive AA HIGHWAY - MAYSVILLE, KY**

606-759-7171

[MCFARLANDCHEVROLET.COM](https://mcfarlandchevrolet.com)

**SALES HOURS**

MON-FRI. 8AM TO 7 PM

SAT. 9AM TO 5PM

Enjoy the McFarland Advantage

- Fair Market Pricing
- Complimentary car wash for service customers
- Complimentary pickup and delivery for local service customers
- Enrollment in McFarland Rewards, where you get 10 cents for every dollar spent in service and parts purchases, combinable with GM my rewards!
- ALL THIS AND MORE AT NO CHARGE TO YOU!



**Ponto the office dog says:**  
Next time you think of beautiful thing, don't forget to count yourself in.

**DISCOVER DIGITAL**

Stay connected to local, regional and world events online.

[AT MAYSVILLE-ONLINE.COM](https://maysville-online.com)

SPORTS 1B-3B  
OPINION 5A  
COMICS 4B

PUZZLES 5B  
CLASSIFIEDS 6B

