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McCREARY JOURNAL

JANUARY 21, 2026

Engage. Enlighten. **EMPOWER!**

VOL.2 NO.15

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Show up, Stand up, Speak up It's Your McCreary County!	CHAMBER LUNCHEON : <i>Judge's State of County</i> Wed., Jan. 21 Noon Public Library	TOURISM : Thurs. Jan. 22 5:30 PM Tourism Office	ASAP : Tues. Jan. 27 11:30 AM McCreary Center	SCHOOL BD. : Tues. Jan. 27 5:30 PM Central Office
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Forest Service issues draft Finding of No Significant Impact for Jellico Mt. Project

45-day objection period begins

By Eugenia Jones
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As advertised in this week's issue of the McCreary Journal (see page 11), the Stearns Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest (DBNF) has prepared an environmental assessment, a Draft Decision Notice (DDN), and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Jellico Vegetation Management Supplemental Project. The Draft Notice is a preliminary document outlining the Forest Service's tentative decision on the Jellico project, released together with an Environmental Impact Statement. The draft FONSI is a preliminary document stating that the project won't significantly harm the environment. The release and pub-



Photo from McCreary Journal Archives
March 29, 2023: With the rugged beauty and history of the area, perhaps it is no real surprise that a local citizens' group is opposed to the U.S. Forest Service's proposed Jellico (& Little Rock Creek) Vegetation Management Project, which incorporates the use of herbicides clearcutting and variations of clearcutting to harvest timber.

See **JELICO** on A10

KEVIN TAYLOR,
CANDIDATE FOR
SHERIFF



By Eugenia Jones
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With this issue, the Journal wraps up its series of articles introducing the candidates for McCreary County Sheriff in the May 19, 2026, primary election. Republican Kevin Taylor was the last candidate to file before the January 9, 2026, deadline. He told the Journal that he decided to run because he wants all McCreary County citizens to be treated with dignity and respect.

See **TAYLOR** on A6

FISCAL COURT NEWS

FISCAL COURT ENTERS AGREEMENT WITH BOYS/GIRLS CLUB



Photo By Eugenia Jones

The Boys/Girls Club will be temporarily at the McCreary County Park. Once started the hours will be Monday - Thursday, 2:30 PM - 7:00PM.

READ MORE ON PAGE A13

BRINGING IN THE \$\$\$ FISCAL COURT'S YEAR IN REVIEW

By Eugenia Jones
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During the January Fiscal Court meeting, Fiscal Court members heard annual reports from Department heads. Several of the reports identified the revenue generated by the county's individual departments in 2025.

EMS Director Jimmy Barnett reported that McCreary County EMS

See **\$\$\$** on A10

INDICTMENTS RETURNED

By Eugenia Jones
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(The McCreary Journal reminds readers that an indictment does not indicate one's guilt or innocence but represents that enough evidence exists in a case to pursue the matter in a court of law. The McCreary Journal also notes the possibility of individuals having the same or similar names. Individuals are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.)

Recent Grand Jury indictments include the following. David Lee Goodin of Pine Knot was indicted on charges of (1) Trafficking in a Controlled Substance, First degree/First Offense (Methamphetamine), (2) Trafficking in Marijuana, 1st Offense, less than 8 oz., and (3) Drug Paraphernalia. Destiny S. Layton of Somerset was charged with Flagrant Non-Support. Timothy Ridner, Whitley City, was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance 1st Degree, 1st Offense (Opiates). Patrick A. Ross Jr. (Revelo, KY) was charged with Flagrant Non-Support. Ronald Sellers, Pine Knot, KY, was indicted for (1) Fleeing or Evading Police, (2-6) Five counts of Wanton Endangerment, 1st Degree, (7) Criminal Mischief-First Degree, (8) Persistent Felony Offender. Mark E. Trammell, Parkers Lake, was indicted for Flagrant Non-Support.

See **INDICTMENTS** on A13

BOARD HEARS SCHOOL REPORTS

Tables athletic field house bids to explore money-saving options



At the McCreary County Board of Education's special-called meeting on January 6, 2026, the Board addressed several housekeeping items for the coming year. Acting on a motion by Cody Perry, seconded by Estle Swain, the Board unanimously reappointed current Chairperson Johnny Barnett as Chair. With a motion by Drew Sexton, seconded

by Braxton King, the Board voted to retain Estle Swain as Vice-Chair. The Board unanimously reaffirmed the same voting order and the regular Board Meeting time, date, and location (4th Tuesday of each month/5:30 p.m./ Central Office), except in July, November, and December. In those three months, the regular meeting will be held on the

3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Office. The Board heard Annual School Reports from all three of the district's elementary schools: Pine Knot Primary, Pine Knot Intermediate, and Whitley City Elementary. These reports outlined the schools' progress and goals.

See **SCHOOL** on A13

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