

# FROM THE FRONT

## ARRESTS

from Al

approximately the same time as the power interruption.

The investigating officer, McCreary County Chief Deputy Sheriff Dustin Ridner, reviewed the footage and recognized the vehicle from an earlier encounter. Deputy Ridner located the vehicle and made contact with Timothy Ridner and a passenger, Clinton Ridner. While speaking with the two individuals, Deputy Ridner observed dark-

colored residue on the men's reddened hands. Deputy Ridner also noticed a Sawzall in the back of the vehicle. RECC had advised that the copper lines at the intake system had been cut with a bladed tool.

A search warrant was obtained and later executed at Timothy Ridner's residence, where the white Toyota Corolla shown in the surveillance footage was parked. The Sawzall observed during Deputy Ridner's earlier encounter with the two suspects was found in the Corolla's trunk. Inside

the residence, deputies located a Sawzall blade and related packaging, and a purple Cobra .380 handgun.

During the search, Timothy and Clinton Ridner were detained. According to the citation report, Timothy Ridner stated he had been on Big Creek Road at the time of the incident and recalled a truck approaching from behind.

As a result of the investigation and execution of the warrant, 42-year-old Timothy Ridner was arrested and charged with (1)

Possession of a Handgun by a Convicted Felon, (2) Persistent Felony Offender, and (3) Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disp All Others.

53-year-old Clinton Ridner was arrested and charged with (1) Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disp All Others and (2) Persistent Felony Offender.

Both men were transported and lodged at the Knox County Detention Center.

The investigation is ongoing, and additional charges are pending.

## SKY

from Al

program, students typically take summer field trips, including visits to Wisconsin's AirVenture, Alabama's U.S. Rocket Center, and Washington, D.C.'s National Air and Space Museum.

Students typically attend class once a week at the airport, where the Academy maintains a fully operational lab with a simulator and four aircraft in hangars. The courses are free except for fuel costs incurred when students begin flying aircraft. Although the program is independent of the district school system and does not offer high school credit, students who earn their private pilot licenses through

the program can receive college credit.

When asked what the Chamber and McCreary County residents could do to help the program, Smith gave a quick response.

"First, help get more kids out to at least try the program," Smith said. "And, just come out and visit the airport and see what it is all about!"

Members of the McCreary County Chamber of Commerce gather monthly (except in October) for a catered luncheon at noon on the third Wednesday of each month at the McCreary County Public Library. Attendees are not required to purchase lunch, and the public is invited.

## RINK

from Al

plays and trees in the park, will be free for skaters and the general public to enjoy.

Perry also provided the following dates for upcoming events in the spring and summer of 2026.

**THE MCCREARY GRAVEL RALLY** returns on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25.

**MOTORS ON MAIN STREET** kicks off on Friday, May 1, and will continue on the first Friday of each month through October.

This year's **ANNUAL MAIN STREET MARKET** is scheduled for Saturday, June 6.



This year, McCreary Countians can rally around the red, white, and blue as

## AMERICA CELEBRATES ITS 250TH BIRTHDAY.

The McCreary County celebration will begin at 2:00 p.m. on July 4, 2026, in Stearns and continue through 10:00 p.m. Activities include crafts and vendors, a parade

from Stearns 1st Baptist Church to Downtown Stearns at 6:00 p.m., the ROTC presentation of colors and the Judge Executive's speech at 6:30 p.m., live music at 7:00 p.m., and fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

*The next McCreary County Tourism meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, March 26, at 4:00 p.m., at the Tourism Office.*

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**A GUIDE TO EVENTS IN MCCREARY COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS. ADD YOUR ORGANIZATION'S INFORMATION & COMMUNITY EVENT TO MCCREARY JOURNAL. OFFICE: (606) 376-5500, EMAIL: COMP@MCCREARYJOURNAL.COM**

## CLUB

from Al

through Thursday. Once funding is obtained to construct a Boys & Girls Club stand-alone

building, the structure will be built on the McCreary County Park Fairgrounds, with the mud bog area being filled in. A parking area will be included. It is anticipated that the

standalone building will have capacity for up to 200 members.

Initially, the Club will operate with two full-time staff, two part-time staff, college students, and volunteers.

Meals and/or snacks are expected to be served. Traditionally, the Boys & Girls Club of America accepts participants based on academic need, income, and other criteria.

## TDEC

from Al

Roberta Landfill, Phase II, Inc. Ex parte refers to motions, hearings, orders, or cases in which one party acts or applies to act in the absence of another.

Stemming from the potential permitting and creation of a second landfill at Bear Creek in Oneida, TN, the case concerns Rock Properties Intl, Inc./Ralph and Michelle

Trieschmann's purchase of property adjacent to a parcel previously permitted as a landfill. The Respondent, Roberta Landfill Phase II, Inc., is currently seeking to have the landfill permit "re-certified" by TDEC to allow construction of the landfill to proceed.

In denying the application for an Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order at this time, the Court found that the petitioners did not demonstrate the kind of irrep-

arable harm required to issue an Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order in the brief time between filing the order and conducting a future hearing on the application for a temporary injunction. The Court noted that promptly setting a hearing on the Petitioners' application for a temporary injunction will allow both sides to be heard. Additionally, the Court noted that the Petitioners did not serve or provide notice to the

Respondents Salyers/TDEC and Roberta Landfill, Phase II, that a temporary restraining order was being sought.

The order denying the Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order was filed on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, one day after Rock Properties, Intl, Inc./Ralph & Michelle Trieschmann filed their Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Application for an Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order.

## MEETS

from Al

closing Manor Circle, also known as 19th Street in Whitley City. Notices were posted, and a public hearing was held before approval was granted.

-Approved EMS/911 Director Jimmy Barnett's request to enter into an agreement for equipment purchases via a grant for upgraded radio equipment and to advertise for bids to begin the process of replacing the oldest ambulance by refurbishing the existing box and purchasing a new chassis.

-Approved payment to Willow and Rose Company for an Economic Development loan.

-Approved a resolution for McCreary County Fiscal Court to apply for the KY Product Development Initiative Program, round 2, for the McCreary County Industrial Development Board to construct a build-ready pad in the Industrial Park.

-Approved a resolution for the KY Transportation Cabinet to produce signs for the McCreary County Bd of Education to be placed at all four entry points into the county. The signs will be paid for by the Board of Education and will recognize last year's high school state girls wrestling champion, Kayden Thompson, and Track State Champion, Jolana Schenkel.

-As reported last week in the McCreary Journal, the Fiscal Court allocated an additional \$15,000 for lawyer fees for the Scott-McCreary Environmental Coalition to use in opposing the construction of a landfill at Bear Creek in Oneida, TN. The funding was approved with the stipulation that no further funds will be allocated until adequate progress/results are achieved.

The Fiscal Court also gathered information from Department Heads.

-EMS made 464 runs in January, netting \$189,010 in revenue. 911 answered 1,257 calls.

-The Tax Administrator's (Occupation) Office distributed \$125,476.72 to the Jail Fund and \$250,953.44 to the General Fund for a total of \$376,430.16.

-The ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) Office reported that in 2025, the office collected \$115,172.03 in regulatory fees and \$16,400 in license fees for a total of \$131,572.30 for the county. Merchants sold \$2,359,662.52.

-County Park rental fees for January netted \$4,030 (\$200 from Sand Hill RV Park and \$3,830 from the County Park).

-County Road Department had a busy month clearing roads and removing downed limbs during January's winter storm.

-EMA also had a busy month establish-

ing warming stations and assisting during the storm. The County met its threshold to receive FEMA funding, but must wait to see if the state meets its threshold. For the county to receive FEMA funds, both the county and the state must meet their thresholds.

-Finance Officer Debbie Gilreath noted that the General Fund receives 66.67% of the Occupation Tax revenue collected and distributed each month. The Jail Fund receives the remaining 33.33%. Gilreath also explained that the General Fund covers the following expenses: utilities, wages, insurance, workers' comp, fuel, judge's office expense, county attorney's secretary, copier, and retainer, coroner's wages, fuel, and supplies, Fiscal Court's wages, training, and code enforcement, PVA statutory contributions of about \$30,000 per year, county treasurer, law library, county elections (about \$150,000 each year), economic development, wages, repairs, utilities, and maintenance for the courthouse, wages and fuel for constables, emergency management, 911, animal control, solid waste, parks, airport, and a portion of the sheriff's department (six deputies, utilities, repairs, postage for tax bills, workers comp.) The Road, EMS, Occupational Tax, ABC, and Jail Departments all have their own separate

funds.

-Economic Development (Josh Stephens) reported that the County's Revolving Loan program has \$344,179.08 available. Two grants have been applied for: one for a health hub at the community center and courthouse (Lake Cumberland District Health Department), and one for a workplace/entrepreneurship workshop (ARC).

The McCreary County Fiscal Court will meet again in regular session on March 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.



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