

Girls Inc. receives ONB Foundation grant

BY THE MESSENGER-INQUIRER
Girls Inc. has received a \$1,000 grant from the Old National Bank Foundation as part of the foundation's "20 for 20" campaign. Girls Inc. will put the grant toward a larger fundraising effort the organization is launching. An Old National Bank press release says the foundation is celebrating its 20th anniversary by giving \$1,000 grants to 20 organizations. The ONB Foundation website says grants are given in a number of categories, including financial education and financial empowerment. The release says of Girls Inc.: "Through programs focused on financial literacy, leadership and life skills, participants are supported in

becoming independent and capable young adults." In a prepared statement, ONB President Joe Kiser said of the grant recipients: "Their leadership, innovation, and commitment to serving others reflect the very best of what can happen when communities come together around a shared purpose." Girls Inc. Executive Director Tish Correa Osborne said the grant will be put toward a larger "Challenge-Her" matching donation campaign. "We were very fortunate to be a recipient of a gift from the Old National Bank Foundation to create a Challenge-Her matching grant challenge," Correa Osborne said. "We had experienced some sub-

stantial changes from some funding sources and wanted to have a way to reach out to seasoned and new donors in this challenge. The grant allows for a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$15,000 to help us address our funding needs for all the girls served. "In this day and age, getting unrestricted funds is truly a gift to any organization. We love that we have work to do to acquire the matching dollars but can stay focused on serving the girls throughout the challenge period." The Challenge-Her campaign has a year to secure donations, Correa Osborne said. "We do welcome anyone to be a part of the challenge and thank those that have already committed," Correa Osborne said.



Tish Correa Osborne

Beautiful day to fish



Photo by Greg Eans, Messenger-Inquirer | geans@messenger-inquirer.com

Rosina Staples prepares to cast her line into the lake at Waymond Morris Park while spending time fishing from a picnic table at the park Thursday afternoon. "I like to come out here and fish two or three days a week," Staples said. "I don't know why more people aren't out here, today. It's such a beautiful day."

Digest

Daviess Fiscal Court

During its meeting Thursday at the Daviess County Courthouse, Daviess County Fiscal Court took the following actions:

- Heard Friday After 5 barrel stave presentation
- Heard treasurer's report for July, 2026
- Approved minutes of Aug. 13, 2026, Daviess County Fiscal Court meeting
- Approved all claims for all departments
- Approved second reading of KOC A.111 (2026) 09-2026: An ordinance relating to the adoption of the 2026 Daviess County tax rates
- Approved AmeriCorps partner agency agreement benefitting the Homeless Coalition of Ohio Valley for Fiscal Year 2026/2027

- Approved second reading of KOC 921.693 (2026) 10-2026: An ordinance amending KOC 921.685 (2025) 02-2025 and KOC 921.689 (2026) 01-2026 section four
- Approved second reading of KOC A.110.02 (2026) 11-2026: Budget amendment No. 2
- Approved sheriff's annual tax settlement for tax year 2025
- Approved grant agreement for litter abatement program 2027
- Accepted proposal by JailGeek, Inc. for federal per diem rate application and negotiation services for the Daviess County Detention Center
- Approved Resolution 22-2026: Agreement regarding rural secondary flex program funds (Anter Avenue, Crisp Road, Doe Run, Fawn Drive, Meadowlark Drive, Pecan Avenue, and Sims Avenue)

- Approved rate schedule for Daviess County Fiscal Court
- Awarded Bid No. 2627-07: Two (2) new full-size SUVs (Detention Center)
- Awarded RFQ No. 2627-14: D6T dozer undercarriage replacement (Landfill)
- Awarded RFQ No. 2627-16: Four (4) new 40-yard roll off containers (Solid Waste)
- Awarded RFQ No. 2627-17: Eleven (11) sets of bunker gear (Fire Rescue)
- Hired Nathan Young as firefighter effective Aug. 17, 2026
- Hired Cameron Thompson as firefighter effective Aug. 26, 2026
- Promoted Jonathan Heath to lieutenant effective Aug. 30, 2026
- Accepted the retirement resignation of Ronnie Bobo effective Sept. 1, 2026

CASTLEN

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Kuegel told the audience at Thursday's forum that the organizations involved with the proposed plant, and with taking options on the surrounding properties, suggest a data center is being planned adjacent to the power plant. The 30-acre site for the power plant under consideration was optioned by the City Utility Commission to Green River East GenCo LLC on March 10. Green River East LoadCo LLC also has options to purchase two properties owned respectively by the family of state Sen. Gary Boswell and T & N Wink Farms LLC. Together, the three sites create about 260 contiguous acres off U.S. 60 East. Both Green River East GenCo and Green River East LoadCo share the same address as ETX Upstream LLC of Boston. ETX's website says: "Our portfolio includes suc-

cessful upstream investments in real estate, energy and data center infrastructure, service providers and startups." Kuegel said, "If for some reason we get a data center completely stopped, that power plant's reason for being here is gone." Residents voiced concerns about how a data center could impact the area through pollution, such as through testing of backup diesel generators, water usage and water pollution. When asked if there were regulations the county could put in place to stop a data center from locating locally, Castlen said the moratorium gives officials time to study the issue. The Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission is examining how other communities have regulated data centers, and will report back to city and county government with its findings, OMPC Executive Director Brian Howard said recently. Castlen said Kuegel

knew more information about data centers than he did and that "The purpose of the moratorium is not for me to become an expert; it's to find out what other communities are doing, to protect our citizens." Castlen said he asked the Planning Commission to look into issues such as noise from data centers, water usage and what factors would lead to an increase in residents' power costs. The county currently has four moratoriums in place, on solar farms, battery storage for solar, wind power and data centers. Castlen said he expects proposed regulations on solar farms to come to Fiscal Court next month. The county simply cannot ban data centers and cannot put an indefinite moratorium in place, Castlen said. "If you go longer than a year on a moratorium, you run the risk of the companies (deciding) to file a lawsuit," Castlen said.

Meanwhile, Fiscal Court can't block a legal business from locating in the county but can impose regulations. Castlen said, "It's very possible (state lawmakers) may take some action on data centers" in the 2027 General Assembly session. "I hope they will."

Lottery Numbers

Thursday's lottery numbers:

Kentucky
Midday Pick 3: 7-5-0
Midday Pick 4: 8-3-5-6
Evening Pick 3: 0-1-8
Evening Pick 4: 7-1-8-6
Cash Ball 225: 7-16-20-31; The Cash Ball was 17
Millionaire For Life: 3-7-29-35-49 The Millionaire Ball was 5

Indiana
Midday Daily 3: 1-4-4 Super Ball was 4
Midday Daily 4: 2-5-7-1 Super Ball was 4
Evening Daily 3: 0-9-9 Super Ball was 1
Evening Daily 4: 9-9-6-7 Super Ball was 1
Cash 5: 28-29-38-39-42

5K honors Owen, raises money for nursing scholarship

Event set to take place Oct. 3

BY MICHELE LOHMAN
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

The fifth annual Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Run/Walk in honor of Erica Owen will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Owensboro's Legion Park. "This is the fifth annual (walk), and we have held this for the previous four years after my daughter Erica Owen was killed in a domestic violence incident in her home," said walk organizer Lisa Greer. In 2018, Erica Owen, a nurse at Owensboro Health, was killed by an ex-boyfriend in a domestic violence incident. Michael A. Adams pleaded guilty to murder, along with charges of burglary, tampering with evidence, violation of a domestic violence order and theft of \$10,000. He died while serving his prison sentence in 2022. Greer said organizers reach out to area businesses for sponsorships for the walk. Funding provided by the sponsorships and the \$25 race entry fee will go toward the Erica Owen Nursing Scholarship, which is given to a student pursuing a career in nursing, just like Erica Owen. "We seek community sponsors from Owensboro, and they help us pay for things for the event, but the main thing that the money does, the proceeds have gone in the past and will continue to go towards Erica's nursing scholarship at Western Kentucky University, and then any residual funds after we give money to her scholarship, we either donate to My Sister's Keeper or to Oasis, local women's shelters in our area," Greer said. The \$25 registration fee allows the participate to walk or run in the 5K race, but also provides "an opportunity to win some of our big prizes," Greer said. "But I want people to understand that really the entry fee into this is more than just getting

merchandise. It's more meaningful. What we're trying to do is support Erica's legacy and contribute to her scholarship," she said. The walk isn't just to honor Owen's memory and legacy, Greer said, but for anyone who has experienced domestic violence in their lives. "Each year, it seems as if I'm meeting new people who want to share their story with me... about somebody in their family or even themselves, about the road or the path that they have traveled with domestic violence, and they like to share that because they mention how Erica's story has really brought attention to the matter," she said. "You know, you have to take your own situation into your own hands, and it isn't something that can be taken lightly. It needs to be taken very seriously." The date of the walk is selected for October because, Greer said, it coincides with National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. "...The significant color for domestic violence awareness is purple — that is why all of our merchandise and our sponsorship material or advertising is in purple because that is the color that signifies domestic violence," Greer said. Greer said she would love to see a big crowd on race day. "I just encourage people to come out and walk with us and you can run, but I will say, most of the people who participate walk. It's a beautiful morning. We do have a light breakfast for our participants, and we will have a speaker who is typically someone who shares their own story of the road that they've traveled. It's usually a very inspiring story," she said. "We hope everyone can come out and join us on that day and help us remember Erica while raising money for a great cause." More information about the walk can be found on the event's Facebook page, Erica Owen Domestic Violence Awareness 5K.

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