

COURTHOUSE

CIVIL SUITS

INEZ — Martin Circuit Clerk Denise Gauze reported the following civil suits filed in her office through Sept. 16:

KY Foster Care Sys Acct vs. Dustin D. Jude.

Credit Acceptance Corporation vs. Ashley Horn et al.

OneMain Financial Group LLC vs. Sierra N. Dingess.

Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Mindy Stacy.

Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Whitney Young.

James Jarrett vs. Kaylee Wolfe.

DEEDS

INEZ — Martin County Clerk Susie Skyles reported the following deeds recorded in her office through Sept. 16:

Millard Shirley to the Frank Goble Trust.

Tammy Makar to The Frank Goble Trust.

Virginia Reed to the Frank Goble Trust.

Charlene Monett to The Frank Goble Trust.

Tracey Penell to The Frank Goble Trust.

Bettina Shannon to The Frank Goble Trust.

Daniel Branson, Patricia Branson, Eugene O. Wilson and Bonnie Wilson to Corgin Mann.

Danny Pack to Angela Reene Newsome.

Roxanna Tomblin to Zackary Hall.

Maxine Blankenship to Cody Ryan Newsome and Jacqueline Raeann Triplett.

Tiffany N. Hinkle and Hiram T. Hinkle to Matthew Dylan Smith.

Donna Jude to Belden Robinette-Faulk.

DOCKET

INEZ — Judge John Kevin Holbrook heard the following cases Sept. 17 in Martin Circuit Court:

Brian Howell (change of plea) — 1. Possession of controlled substance, first degree, first offense (methamphetamine); 2. Possession of controlled substance, third degree (drug unspecified); 3. Possession of marijuana; 4. Drug paraphernalia-buy/possession: Pledaded guilty to all charges. 1. One year; 2. Twelve months; 3. Forty-five days; 4. Twelve months. Sentences to run concurrently with each other. Diverted for one year on the condition that the defendant has no further violations of law and completes specialty court. Sentencing 11/5/26 at 10 a.m.

Brian Howell (change of plea) — Possession of controlled substance, first degree, second offense (methamphetamine): Pledaded guilty. One

year to run consecutively to Martin 25-CR-52. Diverted for one year on the condition that the defendant has no further violations of law and completes specialty court. Sentencing 11/5/26 at 10 a.m.

Brian Howell (change of plea) — 1. Bail jumping, first degree; 2. Persistent felony offender, first degree: 1. Pledaded guilty, one year; 2. Dismissed. Sentence to run consecutively to Martin 25-CR-52 and 26-CR-25 for a total of three years. Diverted for one year on the condition that the defendant has no further violations of law and completes specialty court. Sentencing 11/5/26 at 10 a.m.

Joshua Scott (change of plea) — 1. Possession of controlled substance, first degree, first offense (drug unspecified), amended to possession of controlled substance, second degree (drug unspecified); 2. Possession of controlled substance, third degree (drug unspecified): Pledaded guilty to both charges. 1. Twelve months; 2. Twelve months.

Andrea Caudill (motion to revoke probation) — Reset 10/1/26 at 10 a.m.

Gabriel J. Cooper (motion to revoke probation) — Set for probation revocation hearing 10/1/26 at 10 a.m.

Jordan Delong (motion to amend indictment) — Fleeing or evading police, first degree (motor vehicle); three counts of wanton endangerment, first degree; fleeing or evading police, third degree; failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance; no/expired Kentucky registration receipt; leaving scene of accident/failure to render aid or assistance; no/expired Kentucky registration receipt: Motion sustained.

Jason K. Fields (motion to amend) — Possession of controlled substance, first degree, first offense (methamphetamine); possession of controlled substance, first degree, first offense (heroin): Motion sustained.

Millard Newsome (motion to reduce bond) — Assault, first degree: Bond reduction hearing 10/1/26 at 10 a.m.

Lonnie Mitchell Pauley (motion to revoke probation) — Reset 10/15/26 at 10 a.m.

Patrick Speer (motion to dismiss, disclose, withdraw bill of particulars, change of venue) — Criminal abuse, first degree, child 12 or under; manslaughter, second degree: Motion for change of venue, motion to dismiss set for hearing 9/29/26 at 11 a.m.

Motion to disclose sustained; order to be tendered, audio/video medical examiner. Larry James supplied thumb drive, authenticated; counsel to supply copy to commonwealth and clerk.

Gary D. Thomas (motion to revoke probation) — Reset 10/15/26 at 10 a.m.

Ronald Joseph Wrightsel (motion hour) — Items to be returned to owner, sustained.

Kassandra Hamilton (other hearing) — Criminal mischief, first degree, tampering with key infrastructure assets; trespass of key infrastructure assets, first offense: Missed pretrial 7/10/26. Set for pretrial 11/5/26 at 11 a.m.

John Pack (motion to withdraw guilty plea) — Importing carfentanil, fentanyl or fentanyl derivatives; trafficking in controlled substance, first offense (carfentanil or fentanyl derivatives); trafficking in controlled substance, first degree, first offense (over 4 grams cocaine); trafficking in marijuana less than 8 ounces, first offense; drug paraphernalia-buy/possession: Reset 10/1/26 at 10 a.m.

Jonathan Pack (other hearing-withdraw guilty plea) — Theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others \$1,000-\$10,000: Reset 10/1/26 at 10 a.m.

James Crabtree (status hearing) — Reset 11/19/26 at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

Shane Nelson (status hearing) — Reset 10/15/26 at 10 a.m., needs to be sentenced in Mingo County.

Danese Chaffins (revocation hearing) — Possession of controlled substance, first degree, first offense (opiates); possession of controlled substance, first offense (opiates); possession of controlled substance, first degree (fentanyl); possession of marijuana; operating motor vehicle under influence of alcohol/substance, first: Reset 10/1/26 at 10 a.m.

Carl Daniels Jr. (probation

revocation hearing) — Reset 10/15/26 at 10 a.m. for time recalculation.

Martin Gillespie (revocation hearing, bond) — Fleeing or evading police, first degree; persistent felony offender, first degree; wanton endangerment, first degree, police officer; no/expired Kentucky registration receipt; no/expired registration plates: Stipulate to bond violation, order entered, bond \$5,000 cash. Reset final report 11/19/26 at 10 a.m.

Martin Gillespie (revocation hearing, bond) — Trafficking in controlled substance, first degree, first offense (less than 10 dosage units opiates); persistent felony offender, first degree; trafficking in marijuana 8 ounces to 5 pounds, first offense; trafficking in controlled substance, second degree, first offense (less than 20 dosage units of drug unspecified, schedule 3); trafficking in controlled substance, third degree, first offense (less than 20 dosage units drug unspecified); drug paraphernalia-buy/possession; trafficking in controlled substance, third degree, first offense (less than 20 dosage units drug unspecified): Stipulate to bond violation, order entered, bond \$10,000. Reset final report 11/19/26 at 10 a.m.

Rose Johnson (revocation hearing) — Burglary, third degree; burglary third degree; possession of burglary tools; criminal mischief, second degree: Amended bond, \$5,000 surety with monitored conditional release.

Danny Mollett (probation revocation hearing) — Agreed graduated sanction order, release to Mountain Recovery 9/17/26.

Jason Mollett (probation revocation hearing) — Agreed graduated sanction order, incarcerated.

Vernon Sluss Jr. (revocation hearing) — Agreed graduated sanction order entered; release to Aria 9/18/26 after order entered.

Tracy Johnson (diversion completion) — No action taken, bench warrant active.

Johnny D. Mills (felony expungement hearing) — Granted, order entered.

The Martin County-Tug Valley

MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

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MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF TAX COLLECTION SCHEDULE

For 2023 Unmined Coal Taxes:

The Martin County Sheriff’s Office will start collecting 2023 Unmined Coal Taxes on **October 1, 2026**. We have a drop box on the outside back of the courthouse for your convenience. Please only deposit checks and money orders in the drop box. Payments can also be mailed to PO Box 407, Inez, Ky. 41224. If you would like a receipt mailed back to you, please include a self-addressed stamped envelpe with your payment.

We accept cash and checks for in-person payments.

Our office hours are Monday - Friday 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

2% Discount — 10/01/26 - 10/31/26

Face Amount — 11/0/26 - 12/31/26

5% Penalty — 01/01/27 - 01/31/27

10% Penalty +10% Add On — 02/01/27 - 03/15/27



The Martin County School District of Marting County, KY

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally funded, competitive grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education;

WHEREAS, GEAR UP serves low-income, minority, and disadvantaged students and their families from underserved communities who might be the first person in their family to go to college; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP provides six or seven year grants to states or partnerships to deliver support and resources to students and their families, starting no later than 7th grade (middle school), through high school, and onward to fulfill their dreams of attaining a postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP includes interventions such as tutoring, mentoring, rigorous academic preparation, financial education, and college scholarships to improve access to higher education for low-income, minority, and disadvantaged first-generation students and their families; and

WHEREAS, GEAR UP is built around public-private partnerships, enlisting the formidable resources of government, business, and community groups to support low-income students as they prepare to enter and succeed in college; and

WHEREAS, the ELEVATE GEAR UP is a partnership of the Martin County School District; and

WHEREAS, ELEVATE GEAR UP serves 197 students in 7th and 8th grade in Martin County, and chosen as one of 12 school districts in the State of Kentucky out of 120 counties; and

WHEREAS, the week of September 21-25, 2026 has been declared National GEAR UP Week; and

WHEREAS, the Martin County School District is committed to providing a quality education for all students, helping them to achieve their highest potential:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Larry James, Superintendent of Martin County School District, do hereby proclaim the week of September 21-26, 2026, as

National GEAR UP Week in the Martin School District and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 21 day of September, 2026
Larry James, Superintendent

