

CHILD

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David Charles told the Advocate.

A citation filed by sheriff's Det. Dalton Hayes claims Homeland Security initiated an operation involving online communications with an individual (later identified as Caruso in the citation) through messaging app Kik.

Caruso reportedly believed he was communicating with the father of an 8-year-old daughter and alleged ongoing abuse of multiple

children, the citation claims.

The citation further claims Caruso discussed through the app going to Florida with the children to allegedly perform sexual activities.

Subsequent investigative steps identified the reported suspect as Caruso, according to the citation, who lives in Mt. Sterling.

The sheriff's office and Homeland Security served a search warrant at Caruso's residence on West High Street.

Caruso, according to the citation, spoke with

Homeland Security agents and agreed to be interviewed.

During a recorded interview with Homeland Security and sheriff's office detectives here, Caruso allegedly admitted to the conversation on Kik and viewing nude images of juveniles on the platform.

Charles said he was not at liberty to discuss what was found during the search.

The investigation was initiated by a cyber-crimes unit with Homeland Security Investigations, he said.

TAX

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and rec at the level it has while providing for all of the city's other needs.

Ledford said at last week's meeting with the recent announcement parks and recreation dept. would receive \$2.5 million in state funding and the number of people struggling to get by he felt the council should give the matter a little "breathing room."

He told the Advocate previously that with a new executive director,

Phil Gross, and several new members, the commission should have more time to see what it can do with the money it has now.

The parks and rec dept. has been the primary beneficiary of the tax has said in previous discussions on the matter additional funds are needed to allow more parks programs to be offered and to improve facilities within the dept..

Under the amended ordinance the tourism commission will be tasked with doling out the tax revenue.

The commission will review requests from the given entities based on need, Botts explained previously.

The amendment also more clearly defines what would constitute a "restaurant" subject to the tax. Food trucks would be subject to the tax, for example.

The amendment also exempts Court Days vendors and those participating in other festivals, the Advocate previously reported.

Former shelter dog now helping others

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

A one-time Montgomery County Animal Shelter dog is now impacting the lives of hundreds of individuals as a therapy dog in Maryland.

Shiloh, a black lab and beagle mix, had been a shelter dog at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter, but found its way to the Bourbon County Rescue. Bourbon County has a connection with rescues in Maryland, Holly Cichelli, a former shelter employee in Montgomery County, said.

That's where Larry Jones comes into play.

Jones, who helped locate the dog through the Petfinder website, had gone to an adoption event in Frederick, Md., to meet a shepherd mix he was thinking of adopting.

Jones was unable to adopt the dog because his condo association would not allow it due to the dog's size.

That's when he met a black lab mix he named Shiloh, who was a stray.

Shiloh was about 10 months old and weighed 35 pounds when he adopted her. She is almost 7 years old now and many people still mistake her for a black lab puppy, Jones said.

He adopted Shiloh in 2020.

For the first four years she was full of energy and Jones said he would take her mountain biking, hiking, kayaking, sailing and cross country skiing, he said.

Jones said Shiloh melted with age.

Shiloh and Jones then became a therapy dog team with Wags for Hope. During the first two years as a therapy dog team, Jones said they would visit people with special needs, including an adult day care, assisted living facilities, mental health facilities, a school for the deaf and on a couple of occasions a public high school where a former student died.

This past year and a half they have been visiting hospital patients, both adults and children, he said.

Jones said he and Shiloh enjoy making a difference.

"When people are suffering from loneliness,



Larry Jones with his dog, Shiloh. Shiloh was once a shelter dog here, but is now living in life in Maryland and helping others as a therapy dog. Photo from "The Stethoscope" for the Frederick Health Auxiliary and Volunteer Program.

illness, grieving, pain or mental or emotional health issues, there is a very powerful interaction between humans and canines," Jones said. "A therapy dog brings joy and comfort to others because it freely greets and wants to be greeted."

"There are no other hidden reasons," he added. "Unless you experience or witness this interaction it is difficult to know the depth and unconditional love that a therapy dog or most dogs have. Shiloh has touched so many hearts."

Jones encourages others to consider adopting.

"The adopted animal makes the person or family's life so much richer," he said. "Shiloh has enriched my life as well as my extended family including my grandkids, neighbors and strangers alike. Now, Shiloh is touching hundreds of people's lives both young and old in so many circumstances."

Jones wrote a book about his experiences with Shiloh. Only about 50 copies were made, but Jones is considering publishing more.

BURGLARY

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The caller claimed to authorities that her mother had arrived at the residence at 1:30 a.m. and was asked to leave due to her allegedly acting aggressively and violent, the citation states.

Marlowe reportedly left the residence with the victim's father, according to the citation.

The victim's father alleged that while

attempting to take Marlowe home she reportedly overpowered him, exited the vehicle and went back to the residence. She then, the citation claims, began busting out the windows with a hammer.

She allegedly asked for her grandchildren, the citation states.

The victim claims she exited the residence to get Marlowe away from the residence and protect her children.

Marlowe then alleged-

ly left, walking toward Grassy Lick Road where she was found lying on the ground near a fence, according to the citation.

Marlowe reportedly became combative, asking for help for her grandchildren, the citation says.

Marlowe was transported to the jail, where she allegedly continued being combative before being restrained by jail staff for her safety, according to the citation.

Centegix alert goes out at McNabb, no public threat

Advocate staff report

Local law enforcement responded to a Centegix alert at McNabb Middle School Tuesday, but school and district officials say there was no threat or danger to others.

Superintendent Matt Thompson sent out the follow message on Facebook and ParentSquare, "Today, May 26, 2025, McNabb Middle School staff activated the Centegix alert system multiple times, and the building was immediately placed into lockdown. Emergency responders were notified right

away, and we are grateful for the swift response from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, Mt. Sterling Police Dept., Kentucky State Police, Montgomery County Fire/EMS, and our district law enforcement officers—all of whom were on site within minutes.

"This was an individual student situation, involving no threat or danger to others," the message adds. "To be clear, at no time were any other students or staff in danger. We are proud of the calm, responsible way our staff and students followed established safety procedures throughout the

event.

"The safety and well-being of our students and staff will always remain our top priority. Today's response reinforces the importance of our emergency protocols and the strong partnerships we share with our local emergency responders and law enforcement agencies.

"Thank you to our families and community for your continued support as we work together to keep our schools safe."

Principal Lori Beth Mays sent out a similar message on Brightarrow.

01 PUBLIC NOTICES

Gateway Community Action
Target Sector
Board of Director's Election
Gateway Community Action has scheduled Target Sector Meetings for the counties of Bath, Menifee, Morgan, Montgomery, and Rowan. The purpose of these meetings is to provide Gateway's low-income clients with the opportunity to nominate representatives to serve on Gateway's Board of Directors. Nomination meetings will be held at the Gateway Community Action Outreach Office locations listed below on June 4, 2026, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Low-income clients are invited to return to the same locations on June 5, 2026, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., to cast their votes for the nominees. The elected representative from each service area county will serve on Gateway's Board of Directors for the remainder of a two-year term beginning July 2026 and ending June 2028.
Meeting locations are as follows:
• Bath County – 103 Kendall Springs Rd., Owingsville, KY
• Menifee County – 61 Indian Creek Rd., Frenchburg, KY
• Morgan County – 151 University Dr., West Liberty, KY
• Montgomery County – 118 Maloney Way, Mt. Sterling, KY
• Rowan County – 136 Lee Avenue, Morehead, KY
This project is funded in part through a contract with the Cabinet for Human Resources using funds provided under the Community Services Block Grant Act of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Fiscal Court approves budget

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

The Montgomery County Fiscal Court approved second reading of an approximate \$26 million budget at its regular meeting May 19 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

The budget includes 3 percent raises for employees.

In other action, the court:

- Approved first reading of an ordinance amending the administrative code and personnel handbook with minor changes, according to Judge-Executive Chris Haddix

- Reappointed Lindsay Maples to the parks and recreation commission.

- Reappointed Tommy Parker to the 911 Board.

- Reappointed Alice Ward to the Sarah Winn Board.

- Reappointed Dwayne Williams to the Montgomery County Water District No. 1 Board.

- Reappointed Justin Cockrell to the Tourism Commission.

- Accepted the county clerk's claims for calculations of motor vehicle and boat bills totaling \$5,609 for 2026.

AUTO ACCIDENT ATTORNEY

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ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, May 30, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

201 Main St, North Middletown, KY 40357

Taylor Real Estate and Auction has been authorized by the estate of Jerald "Doc" Elkin of Winchester, to offer the following personal property at absolute auction on May 30, 2026. This auction includes equipment, tools, guns, knives, collectibles, household items and more. Doc was a collector and prided himself in taking excellent care of his equipment and collectibles. Viewing of items will be Friday, May 29, 2026 from 1-4 pm.

Equipment/Tools: JD 1025 w/loader and attachments(bucket, pallet forks, belly mower), grapple, JD 520 in mint condition, Yamaha Brute Force 300 4-wheeler like new, Kayo Bull 200 4-wheeler like new, JD 318 riding mower, Husqvarna ST227 snow blower, JD 4020 pedal tractor w/wagon, Oliver pedal tractor, wood splitter, 3 pt auger, Gatormade 18+2 car hauler, 50 gal fuel tank w/electric pump, Oliver 3242 2 bottom plows, Ford 101 2 bottom plows, 2 boom poles, air tanks, sawhorses, metal post driver, ladders, spray tanks truck tool box, JD yard wagon, dolly, booms, hitches, JD bumper, top links, jacks, magnet, RadioFlyer wagon, toy tractors/dump trucks, chain saws, small generator, Craftsman tool boxes, shop fan, Go cart, pressure washer, Klutch 60ft power drain auger, hand tools, electric drain cleaner in box, and more.

Gun/Knives/Household Items: Winchester Mod 90 22 long, Remington Wingmaster 870 LW 410, Browning Citori 12 ga O/U, Henry 22 cal w/scope, Winchester Mod 94 30-30 Win, Sears & Roebuck World's Challenge Ejector shotgun, nice set of Case XX and Hen & Rooster pocket knives, Jennings J22, Ruger 1022, Norinco 93, Diamondback DB15, Monastor 101 Bullup Shotgun, Stevens Mod 62, 50 cal muzzle loader, die-cast John Deere tractor, log porch rockers, white rocking chair, sports chairs, gas grill, Crockpot triple server in box, lamps, home medical equipment, lawn furniture, and more.

Terms: Cash, Check with ID, Credit card w/convenience fee. Announcements day of auction take precedence over prior written material.

Auctioneers Note: This is a one-of-a-kind auction with very well-maintained equipment/tools that have been shop kept. See pictures at <https://www.auctionzip.com/Listings/4139401.html>.

TAYLOR REAL ESTATE & AUCTION

Auctioneer: Craig Taylor 859-771-0146

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