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Published in Mt. Sterling—Montgomery County's first choice for news since 1890

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Volume 135 Number 35

Mt. Sterling, Kentucky Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026

Section A



A fire at Easy One Stop Tuesday spread to the attic and required the use of the fire dept.'s ladder truck. The business suffered major smoke and water damage. Papa John's also suffered smoke and water damage. Photo by Tom Marshall.

Just for **Seniors**



INSIDE: Special section highlights some local seniors, offers health tips and more.

Trio of fires erupt in same day

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

Four people were treated at the scene Tuesday after a fire at Precision Resource on Oak Grove Drive. Three had minor burns and another individual suffered a minor ankle injury and were transported on to the hospital, according to Montgomery Coun-

ty Fire Dept. Battalion Chief Jeff Jackson.

The fire was one of three that the Montgomery fire dept. responded to in less than an hour and a half Tuesday afternoon.

Fire Chief Mike Mosbey said the fire at Precision Resource, 170 Oak Grove Drive, started in a hydraulic line to a metal press and was called in

at 2:45 p.m.

Mosbey said employees had to be evacuated from the building.

The factory had smoke and water damage and firefighters were still investigating the scene late Tuesday afternoon, Mosbey said.

Another significant fire was called into the fire dept. at 1:20 p.m.

See FIRES, A3

Local charged with assault, strangulation

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

A Mt. Sterling man was arrested Sept. 3 for allegedly assaulting and strangling a woman, according to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Jackson C. Agee, 39, was charged with second-degree strangulation (domestic violence related) and fourth-degree assault dating violence (minor injury).

Sgt. Randy Wilson states in a uniform citation he and Deputy Kelsey Holland were called to a complaint of a domestic incident in the 2600 block of Howell Drennen Road Sept. 2 and

upon arrival reportedly found the front door to be kicked in and signs of damage to the residence.

With no one present, the deputies cleared the scene, according to the citation.

Sept. 3, Wilson and Holland were called back to the residence and reportedly found items in the front yard, but the door shut, the citation claims.

See ASSAULT, Page A3



Jackson Agee

Special taxing district rates approved by Fiscal Court

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

The Montgomery County Fiscal Court approved proposed tax rates for the special purpose governmental entities taxing districts at a special meeting Sept. 2.

By law, the Fiscal Court is now required to approve the rates.

The Fiscal Court itself proposed rates of 6.1 cents per \$100 of assessed value for real estate, tangible personal property, public service co. (real estate), public service co. (personal property) and aircraft. Rates of 1.5 for tobacco in storage and 12.6 for motor vehicles and watercraft were also approved. The county further approved a tax rate of 3 cents per acre of all forest and timberlands to be levied for fire protection.

The Fiscal Court approved taxing rates including 10 cents per \$100 for both real and personal property for the ambulance district. It proposed a rate of 10 cents for motor vehicle and watercraft.

The fire district proposed rates of 9.9 cents for real property and 10 cents for personal property. It proposed a rate of 10 cents on motor vehicle and watercraft.

Because the district is asking for the compensating rate plus 4 percent it will hold a public hearing 6 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Bypass fire station.

The library district proposed rates of 3

See TAX, Page A3

Fire chief addresses need for additional revenue

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

The Emergency Services Board will hold a public hearing on behalf of the county's fire and ambulance district's to hear public comment on the proposed tax rates for 2026.

The hearing will be held 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, at the Bypass fire station at 805 Indian Mound Drive.

Fire Chief Mike Mosbey said one rate is staying the same and the other is reducing slightly but they constitute the compensating rate plus 4 percent, which requires a public hearing.

While the fire district rate would be slightly reduced, the ambulance rate would remain the same and they amount to the compensating rate plus 4 per-

See FIRE CHIEF, Page A3

Beyond the 'sidelines'

Editor says Kenn Johnson's impact felt well beyond high school as he continued cheering her on throughout a now 21-year professional career.

Sometimes life throws us more than a curve ball. We find ourselves navigating an unknown path, traveling in a direction we never envisioned to be heading.

It can be frightening, exciting, for the good or even bad. It can be life altering.

That happened to me in high school. I graduated from Montgomery County High School in 1999. If you are good at math you can likely come up with a guess at my age without me freely giving it away here.

I'm a self proclaimed nerd. I have no shame in admitting that. Growing up I loved reading and writing. I excelled in English classes and I was never bothered by literature assignments that would make classmates cringe. I also didn't mind being tasked with a book report or essay.

I wrote poetry for fun (yes, you read that right). I was inquisitive

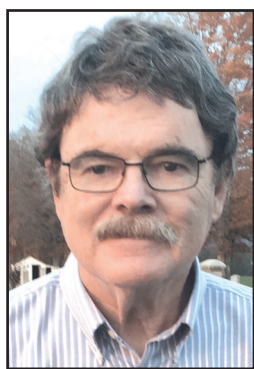
about people, places and things. I don't recall ever walking away from finishing a book in which I didn't have a plethora of questions after that last page turn. I simply had a desire to know more.

When I entered high school, my dream was to become a doctor. In fact, I was certain that would become my career path. When I needed an elective to fill out my schedule, I signed up for journalism on a whim. I assumed it would be relatively easy as I enjoyed reading/writing.

That impulse decision turned out to be a total game changer. I walked into Kenn Johnson's journalism class not knowing that meeting him would steer me on an entirely different route.

Mr. Johnson (I still find it odd referring to him as Kenn as it was

See JOHNSON, A2



Kenn Johnson

More coverage:

Dan Manley shares Johnson's sports background and reflects on a historic visit to Kenn and wife Janet's Mt. Sterling home by former President Bill Clinton and wife Hillary, B1.



Condolences poured in for Johnson's family on social media as numerous other former students shared stories and reflected on Kenn's impact. Scan QR code for that story.

Alle Henry, Adrian Gentry, Rayln Gentry, Carrson Hinds and Tiffany Hinds were all smiles as they awaited for fireworks to

begin at Hope Fest Sept. 5. It was held at Botts Park and was hosted by Hope Hill Youth Services to benefit the organization's programs. At right: Sarah Bond and Taylor Lansdale performed. The event also included inflatables, contests, food and craft vendors. Photos by Tonia Witt. More photos at www.msadvocate.com.

