

THE STURGIS NEWS

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DURING LAST WEEK'S Union County Fiscal Court meeting, magistrates heard a presentation about the impact Congenital Heart Defects have on children. Jeanie Hancock addressed the court prior to their proclaiming next week CHD week in the county. Pictured following the reading of the proclamation are magistrates Jim Ricketts, Rick Wyatt, and Jerri Floyd, CHD advocate Jeannie Hancock, Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan and magistrates Bo Girten and Dakota Jones.



MEMBERS OF THE Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department have braved the snow and freezing weather in the past week to respond to several house fires. On January 26, they were called to a home on Third and King Sts to battle an early morning fire. The home was a total loss.

(Photos provided by Don Lamb)



Kentuckians Urged To Search Unclaimed Property Web Site

Following National Unclaimed Property Day, Kentucky State Treasurer Mark H. Metcalf is encouraging Kentuckians to take a few minutes to see if the Commonwealth is holding money that belongs to them.

Since taking office, Treasurer Metcalf's administration has returned a record \$86 million in unclaimed property to Kentuckians.

"Every dollar we return is a dollar back in the hands of families,

small businesses, and nonprofits," Metcalf said. "That's why we've focused on making this program faster, more transparent, and easier to use."

Each year, millions of dollars in unclaimed property—such as forgotten bank accounts, uncashed checks, insurance proceeds, and utility deposits—are turned over to the Kentucky State Treasury for safekeeping. The Treasurer's Office works year-round to

locate rightful owners and return those funds.

"We're not here to sit on money—we're here to return it," Metcalf added. "Being a good steward of the people's assets means cutting through red tape and reconnecting Kentuckians with what's rightfully theirs."

Kentuckians can easily search for unclaimed property at treasury.ky.gov or www.MissingMoney.com. Searches are free and secure.

Union Fiscal Court Approves Renovation Bid, Proclamation

Union County Fiscal Court met in regular session Tuesday morning with magistrates approving a bid for renovations/upgrades to the interior of the Expo Center and okaying a resolution calling for February 7-14 to be recognized as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week in the county.

Court opened with Jeanie Hancock addressing the magistrates and others in attendance at the meeting with information related to congenital heart defects, a common cause of death among children. Hancock has for eight years, shared her family's story of losing an infant to CHD. In Tuesday's presentation she also shared information about other local children who suffer from heart related issues. As part of her support for raising awareness and financial support for the American Heart Association in the battle against CHD, Hancock sells red ribbons to area merchants and donates the funds to the heart association.

Following Hancock's presentation, Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan read a proclamation calling for February 7-14 to be recognized as CHD Week in Union County.

In other business, the court set February 4 and 11 as dates for advertising work positions available. The court will advertise for two part time grounds keepers at Moffit Lake, two part time gate keepers for Moffit Lake and one road department employee.

In other employment related matters O'Nan recommended the court hire three individuals at part-time concession workers at the Expos Center. That recommendation was approved. Dava Stewart was approved as a part time hire at the senior center.

Sean Sheffer also addressed the court Tuesday regarding the Hitesville Bridge project. Sheffer told the court that the bids have been reviewed and the \$69,950 bid from GPD Group was being recommended for approval. According to O'Nan, GPD is already familiar with several county projects and their bid is about \$7000 less than the other bidders. The court approved the recommendation.

Hard Work Kept County Roads Open

Crews from the Kentucky Department of Transportation and the Union County Road Department have spent countless hours over the past 10 days clearing snow and ice from roadways throughout the county.

On January 27, Union County residents awoke to a major storm that resulted in several inches of snow and ice throughout the Tri-State.

The court then heard from David Lamb who is working with the county on the interior renovations of the expo center. Lamb noted that bids were opened on January 20 with six active bids received. The lowest and best bidder was determined to be SAKY Elite Contractors of Bowling Green. They were approved to line the interior walls from the floor to the roof, line the side walls and portions of the ceiling and replace the doors with new metal doors and hardware. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$528,947.25. The SKY bid was accepted by the court. Work on the project is scheduled around events that are already planned.

Lee Baird, EMA director, also addressed the court regarding a standard agreement between the county and several volunteer emergency response agencies in the county. Baird noted that this is an annual agreement between the agencies.

Baird also told the court that the county has received six reimbursements from Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) since November of 2025.

Other information provided by Baird included a report on the clean-up of a cemetery, which will be completed by the job corps. The debris will be placed on the side of the road for county pick-up. Baird also reported that during this most recent weather the county has experienced three fires and several wrecks that have required responses from law enforcement, rescue units, and fire departments. He added that county residents have been using the warming centers.

O'Nan told the county that prior to the weekend snow event, emergency management met with county and state highway personnel as they planned for treating and clearing roads. The Judge/Executive also commended county employees for their work to insure local residents were able to travel on local roads. The magistrates acknowledged the work of state and county personnel as well as farmers and community members who worked to keep roads open.

The next regular Union County Fiscal Court meeting is scheduled for February 10, at 9:00 a.m.