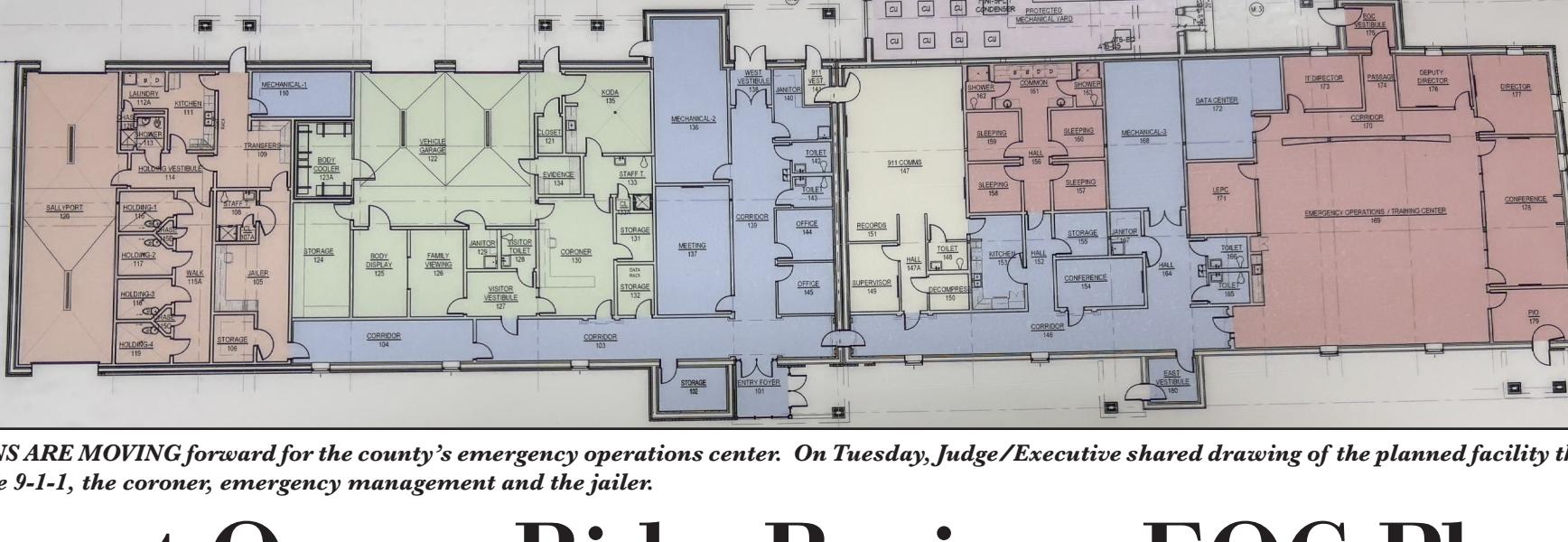


THE STURGIS NEWS

140TH YEAR

STURGIS, UNION COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

NUMBER FORTY-FIVE



PLANS ARE MOVING forward for the county's emergency operations center. On Tuesday, Judge/Executive shared drawing of the planned facility that will house 9-1-1, the coroner, emergency management and the jailer.

Court Opens Bids, Reviews EOC Plans

Union County Fiscal Court met in regular session Tuesday morning with magistrates setting bid dates, opening bids, approving training hours and hearing an update about the emergency operations center planned for the county. Magistrate Jim Ricketts was absent from the meeting.

Following the approval of the minutes from the court's last meeting, Coroner Stephen Shouse addressed the court regarding a recent death in the county. According to Shouse's report, a male living in a camping trailer near Dekoven was found deceased and frozen by a neighbor. Although some neighbors knew the individ-

ual he was reported as being reclusive, suffering from illness and a search for family turned up with his only living relative not returning calls from the UC coroner. Through KRS 72.450 Shouse seized his assets including funds from his checking account and the sale of personal property, collecting a total of \$1796.01.

On Tuesday, Shouse said those funds were turned over to the county and he was requesting the entire amount be sent to Whitsell Funeral Home for handling and burial expenses. The court approved the request due to the individual being an indigent person.

In other business, the court agreed to advertising for requests for qualifications for a Watershed Modeling and Planning for the county's hazard mitigation grant program. Sean Sheffer told the court that the grant funding they can apply for will offset costs for work in the Highland Creek area. The RFQ will help secure engineering recommendations for the work. The request will be advertised February 11 and 18 with the bids being opened in the February 24 court meeting.

The court received only one bid for new software for taxes, HR and road. That bid from Simply Paperless came

totals \$118,000. The court opted to take the bid under advisement the Jonathan Baird reviewing the documents.

Magistrates also approved the hiring of Jenna Dunn for work at Moffit Lake. She will begin her new position on February 16, with a salary of \$50,000.

Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan provided the magistrates with renderings of the planned EOC building that will house offices for the coroner, 9-1-1, emergency management, and the jail. The 18,000 square feet structure is anticipated to cost about \$7.5 million with an additional \$4 million set aside for furniture and technolo-

gy, O'Nan said. The judge/executive noted that he is lobbying for a \$7.5 million line item to be included in the state budget for the work with the county pledging \$4 in coal severance dollars.

In addition to approving the claims, the court approved incentive pay for five individuals completing 40 training hours. O'Nan, magistrates Jerri Floyd, Rick Wyatt and Jim Ricketts and county clerk Garrick Thompson will receive \$5445.28 for completing the trainings.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. with the next meeting of the court scheduled for February 24, at 9:00 a.m.

Union County Grand Jury Returns Indictments

The Union County Grand Jury convened February 3, returning indictments against several individuals.

In the case of Shane Alexander, the defendant, was indicted on two drug related counts: trafficking in a controlled substance first degree, methamphetamine, a Class C felony and drug paraphernalia buy/possess, a Class A misdemeanor.

Ronnie Moore saw two indictments returned against him. Moore was indicted for trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree, first offense-methamphetamine, a Class C felony and drug paraphernalia buy/possess, a Class A misdemeanor.

Two indictments were returned against Dow Chris Wolf who faces charges of trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense, methamphetamine, a Class C felony and drug paraphernalia, buy/possess a Class A misdemeanor.

Isaak N. Hogan was indicted on three charges: trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree, first offense, methamphetamine, a Class C felony; drug par-

aphernalia-buy/possess, a Class A misdemeanor; and tampering with physical evidence, a Class D felony.

In the case of China McGuire, the defendant was indicted for intimidating a participant in a legal process, a Class D felony. Court records show McGuire used harassing communications influenced, or attempted to influence the testimony of a participant in a case.

In a separate grand jury case, McGuire was indicted on a second charge of intimidating a participant in a legal process, A Class D felony.

McGuire was also indicted in third case in which he is charged with intimidating a witness in a legal process, a Class D felony.

McGuire was also indicted in a fourth case on charges of assault, second degree, a Class C felony; kidnapping-adult, a Class B felony; and terroristic threatening,

third degree, a Class A misdemeanor.

Three indictments were re-

turned against Billy Brooks who faces charges of leaving the scene of an accident/failure to render aid, a Class A misdemeanor; disregarding or failure to yield right of way; and driving DUI suspended license third offense, aggravator.

Chase Nance saw two in-

dictments returned against him. Those charges include theft by unlawful taking all others \$10,000 but under \$1,000,000, a Class C felony and criminal mischief, first degree a Class D felony.

Austin Russell was in-

dicted for failure to comply with sex offender registration, first offense, a Class D felony and failure to notify address change, a violation.

In the case of Robert Noblit, the defendant faces nine indictments: convicted felon in possession of a fire-arm, a Class D felony; pos-

session of a controlled substance, first degree, second offense, methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia, buy/

possess; failure to/improper signal, a violation; no tail lamps, a violation; failure to illuminate head lights, a vi-

olation; no/expired registration plates, a violation; and failure to maintain required insurance, a violation.

Seven indictments were re-

turned against Ceairra McGill. McGill faces charges of possession of a controlled substance, first degree, first offense, drug unspecified,

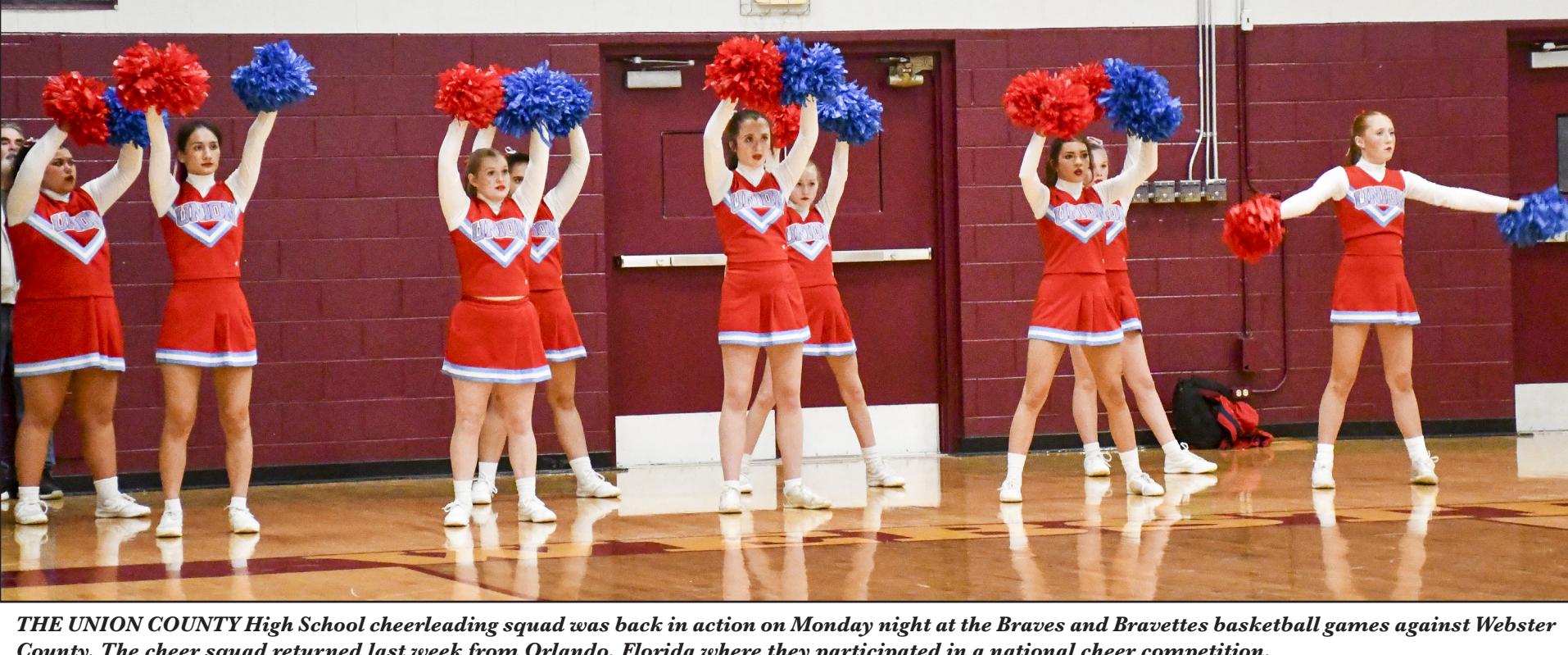
a Class D felony; possession of marijuana, a Class B mis-

demeanor; drug paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor;

failure to wear seatbelts, a violation; possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle, a violation;

failure to notify address change, a violation; and obstructed vision and/or windshield, a Class B misde-

mior.



THE UNION COUNTY High School cheerleading squad was back in action on Monday night at the Braves and Bravettes basketball games against Webster County. The cheer squad returned last week from Orlando, Florida where they participated in a national cheer competition.