

THE STURGIS NEWS

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Union County

Union County Native Earns Doctorate Degree

Mrs. Sarah Wilson, a native of Waverly, has announced that her daughter Cassandra D. Wilson earned a Doctor of Education (Ed.D) in Educational Leadership from Spalding University in Louisville, May 9, 2026.

"Seeing Cassandra achieve this goal fills my heart with pride," said Mrs. Wilson. "She has worked tirelessly for many years while balancing work, family responsibilities and her educational pursuits. She stayed the course and never gave up, even when the journey was challenging."

Dr. Wilson earned her doctorate from Spalding University, a private university, founded by the Sister of Charity of Nazareth. Spalding is one of Kentucky's oldest institutes of higher education and is known for its commitment to leadership, service, social justice and community engagement.

Dr. Wilson currently serves as a Rehabilitation Counselor with the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation where she assists individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment in achieving meaningful careers and greater independence. Her professional career spans nearly three decades in vocational rehabilitation, workforce development, higher education and career counseling.

Prior to earning her doctorate, Dr. Wilson earned a master's degree from



Murray State University and a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University. Throughout her career, she has remained dedicated to helping students overcome barriers and reach their full potential through education, vocational training and employment opportunities.

In discussing her daughter's accomplishments, Sarah Wilson reflected that Cassandra's father the late Bob Wilson would have been especially proud of his daughter.

"Her father always believed in her and encouraged her to pursue her dreams," Mrs. Wilson said. "Although he is no longer here to celebrate this milestone, I know he would be incredibly proud of the woman she has become and all that she has achieved."

For the Wilson family, earning a doctoral degree represents years of perseverance, faith. Determination

and sacrifice. This achievement marks the culmination of a lifelong commitment to education and service while opening new opportunities for leadership and advocacy.

"As her mother, I have watched Cassandra work diligently toward this goal for many years." Mrs. Wilson said. "Her determination, faith and commitment to helping others have carried her through every challenge. Her father, Bob Wilson would have been tremendously proud to see her earn the title of Doctor."

Dr. Wilson plans to continue to service the citizens of Kentucky through her work in vocational rehabilitation and educational leadership while remaining dedicated to helping individuals achieve meaningful employment, independence and success.

--submitted by Sarah Wilson

Union County Fiscal Court Approves Contract; Hears Updates

Union County Fiscal Court met in a short session Tuesday, June 9, with magistrates approving revisions to the administrative code, renewing a contract and setting bid dates for replacing a bridge on William Ball Road.

After the call to order and the approval of the minutes from their last meeting, magistrates approved revisions to the county's administrative code so that it matches the state plan. In presented the administrative code for approval, Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan also told the court that in July the county committee will begin reviewing the personnel policy for possible changes. On a roll call voted, the changes to the administrative code passed unanimously.

The court also set June 17 and 24 to advertise for bids for a bridge replacement on William Ball Road. That work will be paid for with state grant funds. Bids are due July 3.

Other business to come before the court included the contract renewal with Granicus for the county's website. The renewal amount which was approved unanimously, is \$1400 annually. That approval is pending attorney Julie Wallace's review of the document.

The court approved two hire recommendations. James Barble was approved as a seasonal groundskeeper at Moffit Lake and Kendra Lamb will work part-time at the Expo Center.

Jenna Dunn provided the court with an update on Moffit Lake. She noted that since February, the recreation area has generated \$252,844 in revenue much of which is from cabin and RV campsite rentals. In addition to rentals, revenue comes from store sales, fishing, facility rentals and electricity sales. Dunn told the court that since February a number of improvements and enhancements

have been made. Those include the addition of handicap accessible shower chairs, expanded food offerings in the camp store and restricted shower facilities and laundry access to registered guests only to maintain cleanliness, reduce wear and ensure paying guests receive a quality experience.

An electronic survey of the lake has been conducted to reduce overcrowding, improve fish growth potential and provide a healthier fish population. Efforts are also being made to improve the overall water quality and lake conditions.

In the last 90 days, Moffit Lake website has seen increased activity. The area is also seeing success with the employment of local high school students working as gatekeepers and groundskeepers, and many local agencies and families are taking advantage of the area for gatherings for family reunions, church events, youth group activities, fishing, and holiday weekend events. Last week dozens of wrestlers stayed at the camp while they attended the UCHS wrestling camp.

At the Expo Center, Brianna Hill says that employees are busy getting ready for this week's county fair. She noted that the area has a new electronic signs, new grandstand seating, and the inside of the arena area has been renovated. A number of events are scheduled in the coming months including a music festival, the annual bike rally, and a farm show.

In his report to the magistraties, O'Nan reported that the townhall held in Uniontown was well-received and brought out a lot of good suggestions. He also noted that about 60 members of KACo visited the county recently and heard remarks from Gary Ervin.

The next meeting of the fiscal court is June 23, at 9:00 a.m.

America: What's In The Name?

As residents of the United States of America celebrate the nation's two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, some might be curious where the "America" portion of the country's name comes from.

According to the Library of Congress, America is named after Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci. The LOC contends that Vespucci was the first to suggest that the lands Christopher Columbus sailed to in 1492 were part of a

separate continent. German mapmaker Martin Waldseemüller honored Vespucci's assertion in 1507, when he created a notable map that was the first to depict the lands as a separate continent, naming the area "America," which is a Latinized version of "Amerigo."

That map is now part of the cartographic collections at the LOC, and is sometimes referred to as "America's Birth Certificate."

Sturgis City Council Accepts Resignation; Approves FY 2026-2027 Budget

The Sturgis City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 10 with Mayor Billy Adams presiding, and all council members in attendance. City Attorney Vickie Davis, Sturgis Fire Chief Josh Bradburn, and Code Enforcement Officer Greg Warmack were also present.

The council conducted a video conference with Shad Allen of Allen & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, who reviewed the 2024 audit report. That review was the first audit report presented to the council in more than five years.

Allen told the council, "This was a much better process than I expected. The city's finances and controls that are in place are better than expected."

He noted that the council members and city employees have been important to the city's recent financial success. He emphasized, "The financial figures in the 2024 audit are not as relevant as they would be with a more current audit." He added, "One area of concern is the

city budget, but many issues have been corrected and are much improved from the time previous to 2024."

The city received a modified opinion of the financial information provided. "This information is now accurate for a third party," Allen said. He also noted the audit reviewed various internal controls at the city offices. The 2024 audit report will be submitted to the Department of Local Government, as required by law, and enables the city to seek grant funding. Council members approved a motion to accept the audit.

Mayor Adams added, "This is a big day for Sturgis. It is a step in the right direction."

Council members then approved the minutes from the regular meeting in May and reviewed the monthly financial report. The city's various financial accounts continue to carry positive balances. Council members also approved the mayor's monthly mileage reimbursement in the amount of \$81.20.

Chief Bradburn present-

ed the monthly report for the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department. The department has an active roster of 22 members, and those volunteers responded to 21 incidents in May. The department members also had 16 training hours for the month.

The water loss for May was at 14.55%, a marked improvement over previous months. Mayor Adams emphasized that the flushing - 751,600 gallons -- which has been taking place recently is necessary to try and keep the water within state guidelines. Recent comments on social media have been critical of city officials because of the flushing; however, the extreme head and infrastructure issues made the flushing necessary. Mayor Adams concluded, "We have no choice to flush. We need to have our own water plant."

At 4:27 P.M., council members went into closed session to discuss personnel. At 4:37, the meeting reconvened in open session, and Mayor Adams announced the resignation of Bradburn

as fire chief. The council accepted that resignation and the mayor's recommendation to appoint Robert Blume as the temporary fire chief, effective June 25.

Officers from the Union County Sheriff's Department responded to 58 incidents in May within the city limits of Sturgis. Mayor Adams reported that none of those incidents involved driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

In his report to the council, Warmack said complaints about nuisance properties are increasing, but violators are being more compliant. "Progress is being made on some of the bigger violations," he said. He also noted the city has begun to some of the mowing on nuisance properties, and the costs of that mowing is being attached to the property owner. Council members John Deibler and Dennis Odom volunteer their time to help public works employees with mowing.

Council members approved declaring a 2006 Chevrolet Silverado pickup

truck as surplus. Mayor Adams also told members the city has purchased a 2015 Dodge 4-wheel drive pickup at a cost of \$20,000. That purchase was authorized at the May meeting.

Council members once again discussed a revised personnel policy; however, concerns over vacation time resulted in a decision for members to discuss the issue with city employees. The policy will be revisited at the July meeting.

The budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$3,270,907.03 was also approved. A complete listing of that budget can be found in this week's paper.

Mayor Adams told members the city will begin streaming meeting sessions once a change is made for the meeting location. The first reading of an ordinance to move monthly meetings to the room behind the former council chambers was approved last Wednesday. A called session is planned for today (Wednesday, June 17, 4:00 P.M.) to have a second

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