

# Whitley inmate apprehended after escape during hospital visit

BY MACEE SWAFFORD  
Staff Writer

CORBIN — An inmate who briefly escaped custody while receiving medical treatment at Baptist Health Corbin was apprehended later the same day following a multi-agency search, according to authorities.

Whitley County Detention Center officials said the incident occurred Saturday, while inmate Misty A. Phillips, 42, of Williamsburg, was receiving off-site medical care at Baptist Health Corbin. During the visit, Phillips assaulted a female detention officer and fled into a nearby wooded area.

Local law enforcement agencies immediately responded, quickly securing the area and establishing a perimeter. Authorities said Phillips was located and taken into custody without fur-

ther incident.

The Corbin Police Department announced Phillips’ arrest, stating she was apprehended after a coordinated search effort involving multiple surrounding agencies. Police said the search utilized thermal imaging drones, K-9 units and coordinated foot searches in the wooded terrain surrounding the hospital.

Phillips’ new charges include first-degree Escape and third-degree Assault. Court records indicated she was also charged with Resisting Arrest, second-degree Fleeing or Evading Police (on foot), second-degree Wanton Endangerment and first-degree Criminal Mischief.

Officials emphasized that the safety of staff, the public and individuals

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# Whitley judge executive addresses constable vacancy following Foley’s passing

BY MACEE SWAFFORD  
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CORBIN — During Tuesday’s Southern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Whitley County Judge Executive Pat White, Jr. addressed the recent passing of 1st District Constable Lonnie Foley and outlined how the vacant seat will be filled.

White spoke fondly of Foley’s decades of public service and the impact he made across the county.

“Constable Foley was the longest-serving constable in the state of Kentucky. Serving 40 years as a Whitley County Constable, working for the school system and helping kids around the school system for years and years,” said White. “Just a great man from a great family. He’s gonna be surely missed.”

Foley’s passing leaves the District 1 constable position vacant during a regular election year. White said his office has received numerous questions from residents about how the process will unfold, particularly since Foley was unopposed for the upcoming term.

Judge White explained that any appointment he makes would be temporary.

“I would only appoint until the elections happen. So, whoever I appoint, only takes office until November because it’s a regular election season,” said White. “On top of that, we’re already passed the date to file for a primary, so there is not a primary election in that office now.”

Because the deadline to file for the May primary has already passed, the

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# Barbourville council accepts clean audit, approves demolition plans

BY MACEE SWAFFORD  
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BARBOURVILLE — The Barbourville City Council heard the city’s annual audit, approved an ordinance updating the city’s code of ordinances, and took action on property related items during its regular meeting last Thursday.

Auditor Jonathan Ead of Jones, Nale and Mattingly Firm presented the city’s June 30, 2025 audited financial statements, reporting cash of about \$4.2 million and total net position of roughly \$5.6 million. Ead said the city received a “clean opinion” on the audit and reported “no audit issues or findings.” Council voted to accept the audit as presented.

Council also approved Ordinance 2026-1 adopting a code supplement prepared by American Legal Publishing Corporation, updating sections that reference Kentucky Revised Statutes.

“Ordinances of this municipality, whereas the American Legal Publishing Corporation has recommended the revision of editions of certain sections of the Code of Ordinances, which are based on or making references to a section of Kentucky revised statutes,” read Mayor David Thompson.

In other business, the council discussed options for a house the city recently purchased. Members said the city could either tear down the structure and build parking or make minor repairs and rent the home to generate income,

with the option to revisit demolition later.

The house that was purchased by the city is located directly next to the new city hall building on South Main Street in downtown Barbourville.

A majority of the council members agreed with the rent option.

“I say rent it. If you rent it for a few years, put it back, and then you’d have the money to tear it down,” said councilwoman Wilma Barnes.

With the discussion not officially on the agenda, the council did not place an official vote on the decision.

Council approved leasing the former Little League field and concession area at the city park to the city schools for girls’ softball, with the city attorney to draft a contract. The agreement is intended to reduce city maintenance costs and require the school to cover utilities and assume responsibility for upkeep and any damages.

Department updates included monthly reports from police and fire. Police Chief Winston Tye reported 15 accidents, one injury; 76 arrests; 16 DUIs and 244 traffic violations, and said officers increased patrols during the winter weather while checking on vulnerable residents. Fire Chief Doug Dozier reported multiple calls — including

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