

Harper shares plans for projects, programs as new parks director

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Marshall County Fiscal Court announced Brian Harper as the new Marshall County Parks Director during the Jan. 6 meeting. Harper retired from his role as principal of the Marshall County Technical Center at the end of December.

The parks department had been without a director since the previous director, Britney Moss, left the position in early November. During the Jan. 6 meeting, Judge/Executive Kevin Spraggs shared that the job posting, which was open from Nov. 20, 2025, until Dec. 31, 2025, had garnered over 100 applications for the position.

“We had over 100 applicants for that job, and we had a lot to go through and a lot of choices,” said Spraggs. “I certainly look forward to everything he has to offer going into that position. He just recently retired as the principal of the Marshall County Tech Center.”

Harper was present and thanked the court for hiring him. He also stated that he is looking forward to getting to know the park employees and preparing for any necessary “spring cleaning” maintenance the park may need. Harper also spoke on his interest in expanding the park’s facilities while maintaining the pro-



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grams currently offered. Harper also offered a variety of ideas for new events including a family movie night and the potential to construct an amphitheater for a concert series.

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The meeting also played host to a public hearing regarding the future of a portion of Warnick Road. During the Dec. 16 meeting, J.P. Lovett made a request for the county to disclaim any interest in a portion of Warnick Road that has never been in county maintenance. Lovett stated that he

was asked to make the request in an effort to “clean up” the relevant records.

Following the Dec. 16 meeting, a road review committee was set to survey the gravel road north of U.S. 62. The committee was intended to be made up of Deputy Judge/Executive Andy Pagel, Road Department Superintendent Roy Wadkins, and Director of Information Technology Andy Lepisto. However, Lepisto was sick the day of the survey and Building Official Casey Counce stepped in. The committee found

that there was no reason for the county to have any interest in the road. Pagel described it as “a narrow gravel lane” across U.S. 62 from Warnick Road. The court asked if anyone in attendance wanted to speak in favor or in opposition to the county disclaiming interest in the road. Lovett was present and simply stated that he was in favor of the disclaiming of interest.

The topic is expected to be put to a vote at the next meeting. No opposition was stated.

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During the meeting,

the court also approved the surplus of a 2012 John Deere Tractor for the Road Department. The department ordered a new tractor, which is set to be delivered in the coming weeks. The surplus tractor is expected to be posted to GovDeals, an online auction site.

The court heard from County Clerk Crissy Greer, who asked for approval for the clerk’s office budget for 2026, which was set at \$13,821,000, and for the approval of the maximum deputy clerk fringe and salary to be set at \$1 mil-

lion. Both requests were approved.

Spraggs asked if any changes could be expected for the 2026 election, and Greer noted that one considerable change was made, but that it would likely be more noticeable to those campaigning than to the voters. Since transitioning to vote centers, where any citizen can vote anywhere, the clerk’s office has moved to a model that divides the county into only three precincts, to match the commissioners’ districts.

Greer noted that voters would see no real change on their ballots, but that campaigners would have less precise data to view after the fact.

The court also approved the sheriff’s annual order setting the maximum for deputies with no discussion. The court also approved a contract of six months with Kentucky Lake Economic Development that will expire on June 30. The contract serves as a sort of extension in order for the agreement to transition to a model where it will follow the fiscal year rather than the calendar year.

The court also entered executive session to discuss litigation and personnel with no related discussion after.

The court regularly meets at 9 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is set for Jan. 20.

Marshall Yards Racing & Gaming to open Feb. 25

BY ALEXIS BARRETT, MASON WATKINS
FOR THE TRIBUNE-COURIER

CALVERT CITY — The grand opening of Marshall Yards Racing & Gaming is set for Feb. 25 in Calvert City, Kentucky.

The \$40 million gaming complex will be Churchill Downs Inc.’s eighth historical horse racing entertainment venue in the state. The 23,000-square-foot facility plans to host more than 225 historical racing machines, as well as simulcast and sports wagering.

“It’s coming along very quickly,” Marshall Yards Assistant General Manager Dave McDade said Monday. “A lot of the comments...[from] local people are how quickly it is going up, surprise at how fast it is going up.”

McDade said the grand opening event will begin with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and giveaways.

“It’s a great opportunity to be part of the community,” McDade said. “We’re excited to open the doors.”

Ahead of the grand opening, the facility is offering opportunities for full-time employment — of the 100



A crane places a sign at Marshall Yards Racing & Gaming on Jan. 5. The gaming complex is set to open Feb. 25 in Calvert City, Kentucky.

full-time positions offered, McDade said 60 have been filled.

“We’ll have some gaming positions, food and beverage positions such as bartender, server, cook positions, cash operations, attendance and security officers,” McDade said. “What we’re looking for at this point to round out our team.”

The facility can be found at 65 Campbell Drive in Calvert City, at the intersection of U.S. 62 and Interstate 24 exit 27.



Photo provided
From left to right, Stephanie Nichols, RN; Leanna Jackson, APRN, director of Perinatal Services; and Bella Warren, nurse extern; and parents, Dylon Moulding and Kendra McGary with Logan.

Murray-Calloway County Hospital welcomes first baby of 2026

MURRAY — Baby Logan Blake, weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 18.5 inches, made his debut at 7:48 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2026, marking a joyful start to the year for his family and for Murray-Calloway County Hospital, the hospital announced in a news release.

Parents Kendra McGary and Dylon Moulding from Murray expressed their excitement and gratitude as they welcomed their baby boy, stating, “We are overjoyed to start the year with this beauti-

ful blessing.” Logan will meet his big sister, Violet, upon his arrival home.

“The staff at Murray-Calloway County Hospital’s, Perinatal Services Department, has been incredible, making this experience all the more special,” Kendra said.

The hospital’s maternity team, led by Dr. Karla Turley, provided care throughout the pregnancy and delivery, according to the hospital.

“Welcoming the first baby of the year is always a moment of

celebration for our hospital family and we are honored to be part of this special moment in the lives of our patients,” Turley said.

The family received a gift basket containing a variety of baby items from MCCCH, as well as donations from area businesses including Cracker Barrel, The Plaid Rabbit, Ribbon Chix, Shogun Japanese Steak & Sushi Restaurant, Chicken Salad Chick and Jade & June Photography for a Hey Honey Newborn Session.

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