THE TRIB

MARSHALL COUNTY TRIBUNE-COURIER

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Fiscal court hears updates on donations, grant opportunities

BY ALEXA BLACK
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The Marshall County Fiscal Court met in regular session recently, discussing Marshall County Elks Lodge donations, grant opportunities for CASA with opioid funds and updates on the senior center project.

Representatives from the Marshall County Elks Lodge addressed the court. Lodge President Darlena Jones introduced herself and presented four $1,000 checks to the Marshall County Rescue Squad, Marshall County Animal Shelter, Humane Society of Marshall County and The Miracle League.

Jones said the lodge distributes funds through various efforts, including its golf tournament, which raised $100,000 during the lodge's 40th anniversary. She also described how the group began supporting the Exceptional Center and how much the center has developed since then. Judge-Executive Kevin Spraggs thanked the lodge for its hard work and generous contributions.

Jessica Foust of CASA by the

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Since joining the Marshall County Arts Center in January 2026, former teacher and Executive Director Kody York has expanded local arts events, with early success.

Marshall County Arts Center offers fun for all with exhibitions, unique fundraisers and theater program

BY ALEXA BLACK
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The Marshall County Arts Center has been working toward enhancing the variety and multitude of their local events, which Executive Director Kody York said has been a success so far. Since joining the Arts Center in January 2026 after leaving her role as a teacher in the local public schools system, York has largely focused on expanding art opportunities for the community.

The Arts Center has recently hosted a Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) community presentation, which welcomed students with a passion for the arts, creativity, an open mind and eagerness to learn and potentially join GSA in the future.

"My goal in hosting the free Governor's School for the Arts community presentation was to give students and families an opportunity to learn about the program, ask questions and understand how to pursue these opportunities," York said. "Disciplines include vocal and instrumental music, creative writing, dance, drama, film and photography, graphic design, musical theater, and visual art."

York said that applications are open through Jan. 17, 2027.

Tuition is free for accepted students, scholarship opportunities are available at nearly 30 colleges and universities, and ACT scores, SAT scores and GPA are not required to apply.

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Marshall County School Board hears positive updates on overall scoring

BY ALEXA BLACK
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At the recent Marshall County Board of Education meeting, principals of various schools throughout the district shared updates on their respective districts' KSA scores, a student advisor on the board shared her concerns and her own positive insight on mental health, and the board praised their athletic accomplishments.

A student advisor informed the school board that she was concerned over the availability regarding adequate mental health services at school, citing that there were ten counselors in 2025 and only a handful this year. Due to this, the student advisor said the remaining mental health counselors are unable to take additional students.

She feels as though there have been more altercations at school since some students who might have received consistent support are no longer be able to. The board thanked her for her input and suggestion.

She also discussed positive developments in the fall sports season, highlighting the girls' soccer team for capturing the regional championship and advancing to the elite game before falling to South over the past weekend. The boys' soccer team also seen a successful season, advancing to the regional championship. The volleyball team also had a phenomenal season, making

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Community members, public officials participate in annual Veterans Day celebration

BY ALEXA BLACK
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Each year, veterans, families and other community members from Marshall County gather at the Jerry G. English Veterans Memorial Plaza in Mike Miller Park to honor the men and women who have served in the United States military.

The observance is part of a long-standing national tradition as well. Originally known as Armistice Day, the holiday was established to remember the end of fighting in World War I. Since June 1, 1954, it has been known as Veterans Day and has honored Americans who served in every branch of the U.S. armed forces.

Benton's DAV Chapter #118 Commander Jeremy Wallace said the local DAV has hosted the event for around eight years, however, this is his second or third time emceeing the event.

"American Legion Post #236 will be presenting the colors as well as doing the military honors of the 21-gun salute," Wallace said. "Of course, I will be the emcee. We have retired military veterans with thirty years of service as our keynote speaker. We will have a choir that will be singing patriotic songs as well."

For many years, veterans' service organizations

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