

Speaking Of And For WOLFE COUNTY, KENTUCKY, In The Foothills
And Campton, The Friendliest Town In The Mountains

Volume 79 – No. 3

CAMPTON, KENTUCKY 41301, FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 2026

PER COPY | \$38.00 A Year In Kentucky
\$41.00 A Year Outside Kentucky

Look What's Coming Up
In Wolfe County
And Around the Area

Transit service offers free rides for veterans

Robert Spencer, Director of Daniel Boone Transit, wishes to inform all veterans that they can utilize the company's transit service free of charge. It is the company's belief that veterans have paid for their rides by their service to our country.

Winter Dances for Hoedown Island

Winter Dances for Hoedown Island will be held at the Activity Center at Natural Bridge State Resort Park as follows: Valentine's Day Dance - February 14. Warm ups will be held from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Regular programs will be from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Admission: \$3.00 for adults, children under 12 free. Included will be easy-to-learn single and couples dances, line dances, clogging, waltzes and Appalachian style dances, plus plenty more family fun. Dances are hosted by Jane Bolin.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

**Public Service Announcement
Provided By Your Local
Emergency
Management Office**

If someone you know is elderly or dependent on life-sustaining or health-related equipment such as a ventilator, respirator or oxygen concentrator, you should make plans now to ensure their needs are met during severe winter weather and possible power outages.

1. Help them stock a home disaster kit including a flashlight and extra batteries, a battery-operated radio, bottled water, non-perishable foods, essential medicines, and extra blankets or sleeping bags.
2. Check on them after a storm or power outage. Register them, as a special needs customer with their utility so they will become a priority customer. Notify others who could provide help such as neighbors, relatives, nearby friends and local emergency responders such as the fire department.
3. Have a list of emergency numbers readily available.
4. Have a standby generator or an alternative source of power available. Be aware of the safety rules for its use.

Your Ad can go in this space:
Ad Space Available On First Come, First Served Basis.
Call 743-3551 or 668-3595



Regional Champs!

Congratulations To Wolfe County Archery, Winners of 14th Region All-A Champs.

Candidate list finalized for 2026 party primary

Candidates meeting the Jan. 9 filing deadline for the 2026 primary election include:

Wolfe County Judge Executive
• Democrat – Raymond Banks (incumbent).
• Republican – Michael Brand. (Mr. Brand's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of candidates in last week's paper.)

Sheriff
• Democrat – Greg "Bubba" Banks (incumbent).
• Republican - Ryan M. Kidd.

County Attorney
• Democrat – Amanda Kash Hampton,

County Clerk
• Democrat – Corinna Groves, (incumbent).

Jailer
• Democrat – Albert "Coon" Lykins, (incumbent).

Property Valuation Administrator
• Democrat – Justina Trusty Smith (incumbent).

Coroner
• Democrat – Frank Porterr (incumbent).

Magistrate, District #1
• Democrat – Arthur Vest (incumbent).
• Democrat – Timothy Bailey.

• Democrat – Gary Dunn.
• Democrat – Gary Dunn

Magistrate, District #2
• Democrat – Gene Taylor Booth (incumbent).
• Democrat – Steve Oliver.

• Democrat – Michael B. Perry.

Magistrate, District #3
• Democrat – James W. "Billy" Banks (incumbent).

Constable, District #1
• Democrat – Charles Maynard Hatton.

Constable, District #2
• Democrat – John Matthew Cannon.
• Jason "Maddog" Miller.

Constable, District #3
• Democrat – Frank Bryant.

District Judge, 39th Dist.
• Nonpartisan – Gary Salyers (incumbent).

State Senator, 30th Dist.
• Republican – Brandon Smith (incumbent).
• Republican – Billy Wesley.

• Republican - Donald Wenzel.

State Representative, 89th Dist.
• Republican – Timmy Truett (incumbent).

U.S. Representative Fifth Congressional Dist.
• Republican – Hal Rogers (incumbent).
• Republican – Benjamin Hurley.

• Republican – Jerry Lee Shelton.
• Republican – Brandon Mulhollen.

• Republican – Kevin Smith.
• Democrat - Ned Pillersdorf.

• Write-In - Billy Ray Wilson.

U.S. Senator
• Republican – Andy Barr.

• Republican – Jonathan M. Holliday.
• Republican – Jimmy Leon.

• Republican – Donald Wenzel
• Republican – Nate Morris.

• Republican – Michael James Faris.
• Republican – George Washington.

• Republican – Dr, Valerie Frederick.
• Republican – Daniel Cameron.

• Republican – Anissa Catlett.
• Republican – James D. Duncan.

• Republican – Michael James Farris.
• Republican – A. Nick Shelley.

• Democrat – Charles Booker.
• Democrat – Logan Forsythe.

• Democrat – Joshua Blanton, Sr,
• Democrat – Pamela Stevenson.

• Democrat – Vincent Anthony Thompson.
• Democrat – Amy McGrath.

• Democrat – Lewis Romans.

County jobless rates are listed

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 15 — Unemployment rates fell in 119 counties and rose in Pike County between November 2024 and November 2025, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency within the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

Woodford County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the commonwealth at 3.5%. It was followed by Fayette, Oldham and Shelby counties, 3.7% each; Bourbon, Caldwell, Scott, Todd and Washington counties, 3.8% each; and Campbell, Franklin, Graves, Harrison, Jessamine, Nicholas and Spencer counties, 3.9% each.

Martin County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 8.4%. It was followed by Lewis County, 7.8%; Magoffin County, 7.6%; Pike and Wolfe counties, 7.2% each; Elliott and Jackson counties, 7.1% each; Carter and Lawrence counties, 6.6% each; and Knott County, 6.4%.

Fiscal Court audit released

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball has released the audit of the financial statements of the Wolfe County Fiscal Court for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. State law requires annual audits of county fiscal courts.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statements present fairly the receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances of the Wolfe County Fiscal Court in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The fiscal court's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the fiscal court's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology.

A full report of the Auditor's findings is published elsewhere in this edition as required by law.

Tuesday deadline for news and ads

Advertising and news items must be in the Wolfe County News office by noon on Tuesdays to be considered for publication that week

—Editor

CORRECTION

To the Editor:

The report in the Jan. 16, 2026 Wolfe County News under the headline "New Ambulance Service Discussed At Court Meet" stating that Breathitt-Wolfe Ambulance Service plans to close later this year was incorrect. The owners of Breathitt-Wolfe EMS have no intention of closing down the present ambulance service. In fact, we have invested around \$250,000 in the past nine months upgrading equipment and ambulances.

Jimmy Conley
COO/Financial Advisor
BWEMS/D/B/A Cross Medical

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Wolfe County News mistakenly reported in last week's Fiscal Court story that Breathitt-Wolfe EMS was planning to close later this year. That information was based on a type setter's misreading of the editor's notes on a discussion by the members of the Court at its January 16 meeting. We apologize for the error.

—C. D. Long Editor

Panel advances bill on driver's license renewals

Bill has wide support due to inconvenience posed by current system

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 14 — Legislation that would make it easier for some Kentuckians to renew or obtain a duplicate of their driver's licenses was unanimously advanced Wednesday by the Senate Transportation Committee.

Sen. Aaron Reed, R-Shelbyville, testified that long drives, long lines and repeated delays have caused frustration among many Kentuckians. Some residents have regional driver's licenses near their homes or workplaces, while others do not.

Under Senate Bill 7, participating county offices could only renew or duplicate a license. The bill doesn't allow first-time licensing or testing at those offices. Participation is voluntary, and no county is required to participate, Reed said.

"Unless you have a regional office in your backyard, every one of us has heard the same message from constituents that the current driver's license system is not meeting the needs of Kentucky," he said.

Reed said offering local services is a tool governments can use to better serve citizens.

"Senate Bill 7 provides a practical, conservative solution by giving counties the option to bring driver's license renewals back home. It's not a mandate. I need to stress that. It is an option," he said.

Reed said the legislation includes a \$25 convenience fee that will be retained locally so counties can "break even and avoid an unfunded mandate."

Multiple constitutional offices – such as those of county clerks, circuit clerks, sheriffs, and county judge executives – would be eligible to offer the services. This would provide more possibilities for counties, and interlocal agreements would allow sharing of personnel, equipment or space.

"This bill strengthens rural access, reduces travel burdens on families, improves customer service statewide and restores accountability to local officials who already serve their com-

munities with excellence," Reed said.

Sen. Greg Elkins, R-Winchester, thanked Reed for his work on the legislation. He asked Reed about possible fraud that could occur at the new offices.

"Do you think restoring this back to the county level will help with that fraud issue, and did you have any thoughts on that as you put this together?" he asked.

Reed said the legislation wouldn't directly affect fraud, but it could have positive outcomes because the burden would be on the locally elected officials.

Sen. Brandon Smith, R-Hazard, also commended Reed, and said Chairman Sen. Jimmy Higdson, R-Lebanon, reached out to him and most likely others to seek a solution to improve the situation.

"One thing was consistent; that people wanted something done. This has really put a lot of strain on some areas. If you have one in your area, it's not bad, but if you're in a rural area and you have any kind of health issues, whatever, it becomes a boondoggle if you will," Smith said.

Sen. Donald Douglas, R-Nicholasville, said aging Kentuckians are going to be happy to have an option when renewing or duplicating their licenses.

Sen. Gex Williams, R-Vernon, described the legislation as bipartisan.

"I just want you to know you did an outstanding job getting I think 28 senators as cosponsors including the minority floor leader," he told Reed. "So, this is truly a bipartisan bill. I think maybe some others will jump on it before it's all over."

SB 7 now heads to the full Senate.

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for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

