

The Wolfe County News

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

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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

Pop-up driver licensing slated in Wolfe May 27

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet driver's licensing staff from Jackson will host a "Pop-up" for Wolfe County residents on Wednesday, May 27 in the courtroom at the Old Courthouse. Renew your license, upgrade for a REAL ID, complete a free vision screening. Sign up now for a slot at <https://drive.ky.gov/Drivers/Page/Pop-up-Map.aspx>.

Community Roadside Cleanup set April 25-26

Residents are invited to help clean up Wolfe County's roadsides by participating in a two-day Community Roadside Cleanup on April 25 and 26. Trash bags will be provided and filled bags will be picked up and properly disposed of following the event. Individuals, families, church groups, community organizations and businesses wishing to participate should contact the Wolfe County Solid Waste Coordinator Bryan Faulkner at 668-7811 or email: solidwaste@wolfecountyky.com

Long-Banks-Perry Cemetery Notice

The Long-Banks-Perry Cemetery behind the Sunlight Baptist Church is in need of donations for upkeep. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please send to Roger Long, P.O. Box 374, Campton, Ky. 41301. Thank you.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The County Board of Elections will examine the voting machines on April 28th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Wolfe County Tourism Meetings Schedule

Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. at the Wolfe County Courthouse, 16 Court Street, Campton, in the Meeting Room; Second floor, old courtroom.

Meeting Dates

- March 11
 - April 8
 - May 13
 - June 10
 - July 8
 - August 12
 - September 9
 - October 14
 - November 11
 - December 9
- Subject to change in the event of weather or lack of quorum

Meetings are open to the public and provide an opportunity for community members, partners, and stakeholders to stay informed and involved in local tourism efforts.

Edwards Cemetery Notice

The Edwards Cemetery at Trent, Ky., is in need of donations to help cover the costs of mowing and upkeep. Each mowing costs \$75. Your generous contribution will ensure the cemetery remains beautiful and well-maintained for all who visit. Donations can be sent to Merita Caudill, P.O. Box 15, Hazel Green, KY 41332. Any contribution is greatly appreciated!

Help Keep Wolfe County Beautiful!

COMMUNITY ROADSIDE CLEANUP

Wolfe County, Kentucky



Date: April 25 & 26, 2026

Join us for a community-wide roadside cleanup event as we work together to make our roads safer and cleaner for everyone.

Volunteers Will:	Supplies & Support:	Safety First:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick up litter along county roads • Help improve our community environment • Make a visible difference in Wolfe County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash bags will be provided • Filled bags will be picked up and properly disposed of following the event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear bright/reflective clothing • Closed-toe shoes required • Children must be supervised

Get Involved! Individuals, families, groups, and businesses are all welcome!

For More Information & To Sign Up:
Contact the Wolfe County Solid Waste Coordinator
(606) 668-7811
solidwaste@wolfecountyky.com



Let's work together to keep Wolfe County clean and beautiful!

Jobless rate down here in 2025 but still among highest

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 16 — Unemployment rates fell in all 120 counties between January 2025 and January 2026, 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 3.2%. It was followed by Todd County, 3.3%; Fayette County, 3.5%; Jessamine and Scott counties, 3.6% each; and Bourbon, Campbell, Graves, Harrison, Kenton and Oldham counties, 3.7% each.

Wolfe County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 10.3%. It was followed by Lewis County, 8.8%; Magoffin County, 8.7%; Elliott County, 8.3%; Carter County, 7.6%; Martin County, 7.3%; Menifee County, 7.2%; Lawrence County, 6.8%; Jackson County, 6.6%; and Breathitt County, 6.4%.

Wolfe County's January 2026 unemployment rate was 10.3%, down from 14.3% in January 2025. Wolfe County's available work force was 1,563 in January 2026 with 161 listed as unemployed.

Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as weather changes, harvests, holidays, and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends.

Court hears call for 911 mapping clarification

Citizens address 911 mapping, county water supply problems

The Wolfe County Fiscal Court held its monthly meeting on April 16 with Judge Executive Raymond Banks presiding. Court members in attendance included Magistrates Arthur Vest, Gene Booth and James "Billy" Banks; County Clerk Corinna Groves, and County Attorney Steve Johnson.

In new business, the Court:

- Adopted a resolution to accept funding earmarked for Mountain Comprehensive Care programs. (Funds to be passed

Caution is advised on KY 15 between Campton, Breathitt

A project is currently underway to rehabilitate the pavement on KY 15 in Wolfe County between the Breathitt County line and Campton. Currently, the shoulders are being trenched and refilled with asphalt. This will be followed by a resurfacing of the highway to include a wider center stripe.

While the shoulder work is underway, entrance and exit to side roads and private driveways will be affected and drivers attempting to turn into or off of KY 15 may experience delays. The project currently has lane closures on KY 15, which will continue as the paving progresses.

The work is expected to take four to six weeks.

on with the county retaining 15% for administrative fees.

- Adopted name changes proposed for various county roads.
- Approved the reappointment of Marcus Stephens as the court's FEMA application agent.
- Accepted the treasurer's monthly settlement and approved payment of all current bills.

Following the business session, Wolfe County resident Sharon Adams addressed the Court concerning a 911 mapping problem that she said could possibly cost someone their life. Adams, whose residence borders Lee County, described an incident in which her call for 911 assistance was delayed because dispatchers could not determine which county had jurisdiction. She said she hoped 911 boundaries could be clarified to avoid such incidences.

Timothy Bailey also addressed the Court concerning the county's water supply problems with a suggestion that attention should be directed toward developing a local water supply rather than rely on buying water from surrounding counties.

Solid Waste Coordinator Bryan Faulkner also addressed the Court to explain that new lighting for the Courthouse has been received but installation was delayed because the wrong bulbs were shipped. These have been reordered, he said, but have not yet arrived.

Fugitive wanted in connection with fires apprehended

April 17 — Following an anonymous tip to the Wolfe County Sheriff's Office, Freddy Fletcher, who was wanted in connection with multiple fires that occurred in the Hazel Green area last December, was arrested last week by Magoffin County Sheriff's Deputy Eugene Salyer.

Fletcher, 23, was one of four persons charged with burning two barns, along with farm equipment and hay in the Lacy Creek, Landsaw Road, and Buchanan Fork areas belonging to Greg Brewer, Brian Lawson, Earl and Lou Brewer, and David Maggard.

The incidents occurred on the night of December 10.

Three of the suspects — Corey Wallen of Salyersville, Brian Harper of West Liberty, and Joshua Spencer of Campton — were later arrested by Wolfe County Sheriff's officers and lodged in the Three Forks Regional Jail in Beattyville.

Fletcher had remained at large since the incidents occurred.

Local family loses home in April 15 fire

A local family lost their home in a fire that occurred on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 15, on Sandy Ridge Road in Wolfe County.

Wolfe County Volunteer Fire Department was notified of a fire at the home of Danny and Stephanie Caskey at approximately 2:20 p.m.

Neither Danny and Stephanie Caskey nor their son, Stephen Caskey, were at home when the fire started. Porter Harris of Wolfe County VFD said that in addition to the house, a camper, boat, side by side, outbuilding, numerous other items and family pets were also lost in the fire.

Harris stated that the fire's cause remains undetermined at press time, and also indicated that embers from the blaze sparked two forest fires — prompting Wolfe County VFD to call in the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

Also responding to the incident were firefighters from Hazel Green Volunteer Fire Department.

Daniel Boone National Forest fire restrictions

Back country campfires are prohibited due to wildfire danger

WINCHESTER, Ky., April 16 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has restricted all open burning and campfires outside of developed recreation areas on the Daniel Boone National Forest due to elevated fire danger across eastern Kentucky.

This restriction prohibits building, maintaining or using an open fire, campfire or stove fire outside of a Forest Service-provided grill, metal fire ring or fire pit in a developed recreation area or campground. Visitors are still permitted to use commercially available fuel stoves, such as portable propane camp stoves or covered charcoal grills, forestwide.

Fire restrictions will remain in place until risk of human-caused fires abates.

County Fiscal Court Audit for FY 2024

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, 2024. 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. This reporting methodology is followed for 116 of 120 fiscal court audits in Kentucky.

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2023-001. Internal controls over disbursements were not operating as intended. Proper procedures for disbursements were not followed to ensure compliance with the fiscal court's purchasing procedures. The following deficiencies were noted:

- This fiscal court did not issue purchase orders for disbursements totaling \$1,255,550.
- Purchase orders issued for 10 of the 87 disbursements tested did not include the purchase order numbers related to the disbursements and the purchase order listing did not include a dollar amount for each purchase order.
- One credit card invoice was paid late and accumulated \$210 of late fees and interest charges.

We recommend the fiscal court implement proper internal controls over expenditures and ensure they are operating effectively.

Court Judge/Executive's Response: Wolfe County acknowledges the finding regarding controls over disbursements. It is important to note that the majority of the transactions identified during the audit were monthly, recurring bills such as utilities, lease payments, and other standard operating expenses. These types of disbursements are consistent from month to month and do not require a purchase order under county policy, as they are essential recurring obligations rather than discretionary purchases.

The County will continue to ensure that all disbursements are properly reviewed and approved, and that appropriate documentation is maintained to support compliance with internal control procedures.

Auditor's Reply: The Kentucky Department for Local Government has provided guidance to counties that states that all disbursements, including those for payroll and utility claims, should have a purchase order prepared in order for the county to see the cash requirements needed to cover a particular bill.

Note: The complete 2024 Audit is published elsewhere in this edition as required by statute.

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