

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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\$38.00 A Year In Kentucky
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**Look What's
Coming Up**
In Wolfe County
And Around the Area

CES Fall Festival set this evening

Campton Elementary School will host its Fall Festival this evening, Friday, Oct. 9, starting at 6:00 p.m. Activities will include cake walks, hayride, inflatables and a chili cookoff. Admission is \$4.00. Kids admitted free. Fun for the whole family. Everyone invited.

Trick or Treat appeal by Head Start Center

With Halloween right around the corner, the Wolfe County Head Start Center is planning for its annual Trick or Treat Event at the Center on Friday, Oct. 30, between 10:00-11:00 a.m. Businesses and anyone in the community that would like to participate, donate candy to be handed out or assist in any way will be appreciated. We feel this is the safest option for our children and appreciate all efforts made to make it possible. Thanks in advance for your cooperation. We have 75 children enrolled. For additional information, call the Center at 606-668-7879 or 606-668-7111. Wolfe County Head Start Center.

Fall Fest set Oct. 23 Courthouse Square

Campton's Fall Fest with line dancing on the Old Courthouse Square is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 23. The event will kick off at 6:00 p.m. with a pre-Halloween Witches Dance and Natural Bridge's Jane Bolin will lead the line dancing. The event will also feature vendors, games and food. Mark your calendars.

Bd. to check voting machines Oct 19th

The Wolfe County Board of Elections will examine the voting machines on Monday, October, 19, at 9:00 a.m.

Post Office will be closed Monday

The U.S. Postal Service will observe Columbus Day on Monday, October 12. All Post Office locations will be closed. Regular mail delivery and retail services will resume on Tuesday, October 13.

WCLRTA to meet, honor new retirees

Wolfe County Local Retired Teachers' Association 2026-2027

Wolfe County Local, Retired Teachers Association, will be having a meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 13. This will be our first meeting for the year 2026-2027. The meeting will be 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Campton Methodist Church. We will be doing a potluck meal and are inviting new retired teachers and administrators to honor them on their retirement.

Our new retirees are Beverly Adkins, Kenneth Bell, Jeffery Brown, Melinda Creech, Jacqueline Hall,
See TEACHERS Page 6



The pawpaw's green skin, and its 'custardy' interior
(Photo by Kat Arazawa, Civil Eats)

Fall means a trip to the Pawpaw patch

For farmers and fans, late September and October means a delicious trip to the pawpaw patch. Pawpaws are America's largest edible native fruit, and their ineffable mystique will bring thousands of visitors to annual pawpaw festivals held in many states in late September, reports Ben Seal of Civil Eats. "Festivals give people a chance to taste the fruit for the first time. . . a

blend of banana, mango, and pineapple, so soft it's eaten with a spoon. . . . Research and plant breeding efforts are underway to explore and expand its potential as a sustainable low-input, high-value crop that could figure into the future of small farms throughout the eastern U.S."

—Ky. Institute for Rural Journalism

Reminder to voters

No cost voter ID cards are available at state driver licensing offices

FRANKFORT, Ky., Oct. 7—Ahead of elections coming up on November 3, Team Kentucky is reminding eligible registered voters who do not currently have an accepted form of identification that they can get a Voter ID card at no cost at Driver Licensing Regional Offices. Voter ID cards are available year-round and

can help eligible Kentuckians meet voting ID requirements if they do not have another accepted form of ID.

"Voting is the bedrock of our democracy and allows Americans to have a say in what is best for their communities and our country," said Gov. Beshear. "This program helps eligible vot-

See VOTER ID's Page 2

Council gets update on ongoing pjts

By Angelica Fraley

The Campton City Council met on Tuesday evening, October 6, reviewing an extensive portfolio of regional infrastructure projects and local department updates provided by the Kentucky River Area Development District.

The meeting opened up with a traditional prayer and call to order by Mayor Kathi May, followed by approval of the September 1 meeting on a motion by motion by Jake Denniston and seconded by Chris Campbell.

The Council reviewed a comprehensive progress report on several ongoing and upcoming utility projects vital to the area:

√KY 715 Waterline Replacement Project (Phase 1). The council took direct action on this \$8,200,000 initiative, approving Requisition 1 and Payment for Draw 1. Funds for this project are expected to be released by mid-October following a public comment period.

√2023 Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project. Progress continues on this major \$3,588,00 project. Following a re-bid process earlier this year, the contract was awarded to Pace Engineering on May 5, 2026. Divers have finished evaluating the project site, and the city is currently waiting on materials and a filter waiver approval. Water loss and booster pump station upgrade the Hazel Green Booster Pump Station upgrade is now complete. Final project close-out is pending as KRADD works through remaining funds left in the project pool.

See COUNCIL Page 5



Wolfe County Attorney Steve Johnson, right, was among those who attended the Sept. 29 public meeting held by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to reveal plans for improvements to KY 15 between Pine Ridge and Slade.

Proposed KY impvts. aired at public meet

Approximately 50 people view plans for safety enhancements

JACKSON, Ky. — Approximately 50 people attended a public meeting held by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet on Sept. 29 to reveal proposed improvements to KY 15 between Slade in Powell County and Pine Ridge in Wolfe County.

Those who attended the meeting had the opportunity to view maps of the proposed improvements and the affected properties. They were also provided the opportunity to comment on the project via written comment sheets. Written comments will also be accepted by mail or e-mail until Oct. 13.

The project would slightly widen the entire corridor to provide 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot paved shoulders, realign the hairpin curves on Slade Hill,

improve pedestrian access at the trailhead near Tunnel Ridge Road and in Pine Ridge, construct curbs and gutters in Pine Ridge, and provide a 4-foot centerline buffer in the curve between the KY 715 south intersection and Exit 40 on the Mountain Parkway. Signage would be improved along the entire corridor, and recovery areas would be provided to improve slopes and minimize pavement dropoffs.

No homes or buildings are planned to be affected by the project.

The project was developed in response to the closure of the Mountain Parkway near the Powell-Wolfe county line in 2020, which necessitated complicated separate detours for eastbound and westbound traffic. The goal of the project is to facilitate two-way traffic on KY 15 should the Mountain Parkway need to be closed again due to construction or a crash, as well as to make general safety improvements to the KY 15 corridor, which is heavily used by tourist traffic in the Natural Bridge/Red River Gorge area.

The project is included in the 2026-2032 highway plan enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly. Funding for right of way acquisition and utility relocation has been authorized. Construction would not begin until after July 2028, contingent on funding in the next highway plan.

Written statements should be addressed to Ethan Adams, P.E., Kentucky Department of Highways, P.O. Box 621, Jackson, KY 41339. E-mail should be addressed to ethan.adams@ky.gov.

Meeting materials, including the map displays, handout brochure, and downloadable comment form are available on the KYTC District 10 website at <https://transportation.ky.gov/DistrictTen>.

**Have A News Item
To Report?
A Meeting to
Announce?**

**Call Us - 668-3595
or 743-3551**

email:

wolfenew@mrtc.com

Old time dancing was what it was about at Park's Richard Jett Memorial Hoedown

By Angelica Fraley

The boards of Hoedown Island at Natural Bridge State Resort Park shook with the rhythmic stomping of hundreds of dancing feet on Saturday, September 26, as the community gathered for the highly anticipated Richard Jett Memorial Hoedown. The family friendly event drew a massive crowd of locals, tourists, and familiar faces to celebrate the enduring legacy of Campton's most beloved community icon.

Richard Jett, the former Mayor of Campton and Wolfe County Schools superintendent, was renowned across the region as a passionate music promoter and the heart of local cultural preservation. Saturday's memorial hoedown captured that spirit perfectly running from 6:30 p.m. until the last dance under the autumn night sky. The atmosphere was electric as attendees enjoyed a wide array of activities.

The overwhelming turnout underscored how deeply missed, yet vividly remembered, Richard Jett remains. By bringing together multi generational families for a night of authentic Kentucky heritage, the memorial hoedown proved that the culture Jett spent his life promoting is still thriving. Organizers expressed deep gratitude to the volunteers and attendees who made the night an unforgettable tribute to a true mountain legend.

Photos By Terry Alan
and Angelica Fraley



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