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

Vendors wanted for Christmas Bazaar

The City of Campton has issued an invitation to vendors to participate in the Christmas In Campton Bazaar set for Saturday, Dec. 5. The shop local Christmas shopping event will be held in the Senior Citizens Building in Campton and will offer handmade, home decor, craft, and food items and much more.

Community Blood Drive slated Nov. 21

Don't forget the Wolfe County Community Blood Drive, scheduled Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Wolfe County Fire and Rescue in Campton.

Learn to paint Xmas themed barn quilt

The Wolfe County Extension Office invites you to learn how to paint your own holiday themed barn quilt. Class is scheduled Dec. 3 at 5:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. Call 606-668-3712 to register. Class size is limited.

Griswold-themed decorating contest

Wolfe County and the City of Campton are sponsoring a Best Griswold House Decorating Contest. Complete decorations and send pictures to Campton City Hall by Dec. 5 for posting on Facebook. Winner will be announced Dec. 13 and will receive a traveling trophy

Wolfe County Tourism Meetings

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

Upcoming Meetings

December 8

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.

2026/2027 Wolfe County School Calendar

Sept. 4—School Closed
Sept.7—Labor Day
Oct. 12-16—Fall Break
Nov, 25-27—Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 21-Jan. 3—Christmas Break
Jan. 18—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
April 5-9—Spring Break
May 18—Election Day
May 21 Last Day for Students.

Have A News Item To Report? A Meeting to Announce? Call Us - 668-3595 or 743-3551 email: wolfenew@mrtc.com



Each year November 11 is a special day throughout the United States. It's a day set aside to honor all U.S. military veterans who served their country in some branch of service.

The last couple of weeks, programs and dinners recognizing and honoring our veterans have taken place both near and far. What a grand thing! Vets are on the top of my list when it comes to heroes. They have given so much to ensure the many freedoms and the way of life that we Americans enjoy today.

Veterans Day came about after Raymond Weeks, of Birmingham, Alabama…a World War II veteran himself…came up with the idea to expand Armistice Day to include all U.S. veterans. Armistice Day originally marked the anniversary of the end of World War I and honored only World War I vets. The U.S. holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 following a delegation led by Mr. Weeks to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who also supported the idea of National Veterans Day. The bill was amended by Congress on June 1, 1954.

"Armistice" was replaced by "Veterans" and Veterans Day, honoring all U.S. vets, has been observed since that time.

We've all had family members and friends that have served their country in the U.S. military. We've listened to their stories as they told of things they endured during their service years. We realize only a portion of what they went through to keep this nation free. Thank you, veterans, for the sacrifices you were willing to make for your country and the people in it.

E. Ky. PRIDE Homeowner Septic Program accepting applications

SOMERSET, Ky., October 13 — Eastern Kentucky PRIDE (Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment) at The Center for Rural Development announced recently that it has opened applications for the Homeowner Septic Program, thanks to funding secured through Community Project Funding by U.S. Rep. Harold "Hal" Rogers.

Eastern and southern Kentucky communities still have a significant number of households with straight pipes, no sewage disposal, or failing septic systems. Repairs can be costly, especially for low-income families. The Homeowner Septic Program will provide grants for septic system repairs, replacements, or installations for qualifying low-income families across the 42-counties that PRIDE serves. Applications will be accepted until funding is exhausted.

Qualifying counties are: Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Floyd, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Taylor, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe.

The Homeowner Septic Program is available to low-income families who own the land and property where they live and that have electricity (or will have electricity upon completion of the septic project). Qualifications and applications are now available online at www.kypride.org, as well as at The Center for Rural Development or by calling 1-888-577-4339. Homeowners can also contact their local Health Departments for more information.

"Kentuckians deserve clean, safe communities and a key component of that is clean water" said Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO at The Center for Rural Development. "Waste from non-existent or failing septic systems eventually ends up in our groundwater and streams. This program will help us make a big difference in our region."

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

Politics determine who has the power, not who has the truth.
—PAUL KRUGMAN

Tourism Board eyes long-term planning

By Angelica Fraley
Editor

The Wolfe County Tourism Board devoted its Novembdr mdeeting to deliberate on regional promotional strategies, community infrastructure updates and critical administrative modifications. The meeting was led by Chairwoman Leah McWhorter and Vice Chair Steve Koutoulas.

The board navigated a comprehensive agenda that included ideas for boosting local engagement and a review of the financial frameworks driving county tourism projects.

A significant portion of the discussion was dedicated to finalizing internal operations. Board members are slated to conduct a final reading and formal acceptance of a set of newly revised organization by-laws.

Additional discussion centered on developing a formal agreement form regarding engineering and planning firm Qk4, updates to the board's sponsorship score sheet metrics, financial and oversight updates.

The board also reviewed an expansive portfolio of ongoing community and infrastructure efforts. These covered the progress on regional website maintenance, and critical electric service updates.

The board also reviewed current funding allocations, highlighting support for the local Rockin A Rodeo, as well as tracking post-event outcomes from the Partnership for a Fit Kentucky. As

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Fiscal Court's 2025 audit report 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, 2025. 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 2024-001. 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:

- Twenty-four disbursements totaling $1,210,157 did not have purchase orders.
- Four disbursements totaling $562,060 had purchase orders that did not include account codes, quantities, descriptions, or final prices.
- One credit card invoice was paid late and charged a $40 late fee.
- One lease payment invoice was paid late and charged a $60 late fee.

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

County Judge/Executive's Response: The majority of the disbursements identified without purchase orders were recurring monthly expenditures paid to regularly used vendors, such as Three Forks Regional Jail for inmate housing and other routine operational expenses. These obligations occur on a recurring basis and were included in the county's approved budget. Effective July 1, 2026, the Wolfe County Fiscal Court amended its Administrative Code to address recurring expenditures to regularly used vendors. The Fiscal Court also approved an Annual Standing Purchase Order authorizing payment of recurring monthly obligations to designated vendors. This procedure ensures that recurring expenditures are properly authorized in advance while complying with Department for Local Government (DLG) purchasing requirements.

The Fiscal Court believes these changes strengthen internal controls over disbursements and will help ensure purchase order requirements are consistently followed for recurring expenditures going forward.

The Auditor's report is published elsewhere in this edition as required by law.

The audit report can also be found on the auditor's website.

Fiscal Court in busy routine Nov. meeting

The Wolfe Count Fiscal Court met Tuesday for it's November regular meeting with County Judge Executive Raymond Banks presiding. Other court members in attendance were Magistrates Arthur Vest, Gene Booth, and Billy Banks.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

The court approved allocation of funds from a designated park grant to complete a Helechawa Park Project on a motion made by Billy Banks, seconded by Arthur Vest.

In other actions, the court approved a number of budget amendments, dedicating financing arrangements for local road and solid waste utility trucks, financing adjustments to secure essential county road equipment

The court also:

√Reviewed and approved a Rescue Aid allocation of $10,521.56 for Fiscal Year 2027 for Wolfe County Search and Rescue. .

√Approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Military Affairs (to coordinate state and local initiatives in mergencies.

√Reviewed and approving two distinct settlement agreements with the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission calling for a single one time payment of $9,750.00.

√Approved a structured $42,000.00 settlement slated to be paid out in 24 monthly installments of $1,750.00.

√Reviewed and voted to pay current bills.

—Angelica Fraley,
Editor

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