

FERRELL - FROM FRONT

thousands of pictures that he shared with school staff and students. Following his lengthy career as editor of the Sun, he transitioned into independent freelance photography based out of Laurel County, Kentucky.

On Saturday, August 22, 2026, Laurel County Sheriff John Root reported that Laurel Sheriff's Accident Reconstructionist Detective Brad Mink was investigating a two vehicle single traffic fatality which occurred on North Laurel Rd approximately three miles north of London on Friday night August 21st 2026 at approximately 11:29 PM. Detective Mink reports that a white colored 2000 model Mercedes was traveling southbound on US 25 when it allegedly crossed the center line and struck a northbound 2018 red colored Chevrolet truck head on. The driver of the Mercedes - George Ferrell, Age 69, of London received fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene by Laurel County Coroner Doug Bowling. The driver of the Chevrolet truck- Jerry Grady age 26 of East Bernstadt and a 17 year old female juvenile passenger were both transported by Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County to St Joseph Hospital London for treatment of possible injuries. As-sisting at the scene for the Sheriff's Office were: Captain Richard Dalrymple, Deputy Adam Napier and Deputy Tristen House. Also assisting were: Laurel County Coroner's office, Ambulance Inc of Laurel County, East Bernstadt Fire and Rescue, and Eco-Tec. The investigation is continuing. Thank you George for your service to the Jackson County Sun and to our community. You left your mark and will always be remembered in our pages.

FAIR - FROM FRONT

of Bowman (5:15 PM). The annual staple of the Sassafras Cloggers will be a 7:00 PM followed by the headlining act - American Soldier: A Tribute to Toby Keith at 8:00 PM.

The 2027 Jackson County Fair is scheduled to be at the new Fair Grounds located off McCammon Ridge Road. This may be the last year the Fair is conducted in the heart of downtown in the City of McKee.

FUNDS - FROM FRONT

Fiscal Court a check for \$100,000 to be used to renovate and repair issues associated with county parks. In addition, they provided a check for \$2 million that will be used to accomplish Phase 2 of the new Jackson County Fair Grounds and Sports Complex located near McCammon Ridge Road. Phase 2 will consist of the development of up to 3 all-turf youth baseball/softball fields, 1 multi-purpose grass field (used for soccer or football), utilities, a concession stand, fair stage, and parking areas. There is hope to have an event in October/November to introduce the area to the public. Once phase 2 is complete, which should be spring/summer of 2027, The Jackson County Fairgrounds will be operational. There are plans for a walking track, playground area, pickleball court, and more, depending on how far they can stretch the funding.

The Jackson County Fairgrounds Advisory Committee is assisting the Jackson County Fiscal Court in the decisions and development of this once in a lifetime endeavor, and their goal is that Jackson and surrounding counties will have an amazing fairground that everybody can enjoy! The advisory committee is now also the Jackson County Parks Board, and they are actively looking at ways to improve our county parks. This board consists of chairman Brian Murray, representing the Jackson County Fair Board, secretary Ashley Wagers, from the Jackson County Public Library, interim Jackson County Judge Executive Paul Hays, representing the Jackson County Fiscal Court, State Representative Tim Truett, Keith Gabbard with the Jackson County Kiwanis Club, Judy Schmitt, representing Jackson County Grant Writers, Kathy Spurlock, from Jackson County Off Roaders, Erik Hubbard with Backroads of Appalachia, Greg Lakes from Jackson County Tourism, Rodney Chrisman, representing the Jackson County Community Foundation, Linda Shearer with the Jackson County Saddle Club, and Darrell Combs, former Jackson County Parks Director.

LARP Funding to Repave 5 County Roads

In addition, Senator Stivers and Representative Truett discussed a new funding procedure that should help expedite several road projects in the county. Kentucky's Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) provides state funding to cities and counties for the rehabilitation, resurfacing, and improvement of existing local roads. Funds the rehabilitation, repair, and resurfacing of existing local roads. It does not fund new road construction or capacity expansion. The roads being considered are filtered from local citizens and governmentthrough the fiscal court to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet who make recommendations to the Kentucky Legislature. There is no requirement to secure discretionary funding from the governor. This save a step and expedites the funding for the projects. The projects are approved and funded at the Legislative level. The roads are selected based on criteria assessing whether the recommended roads are heavily used and whether they are in desperate need of repair. Jackson County has received approval to receive \$1.1 million (above and beyond their expected normal road funding allocation) for the repaving of five (5) roads. These roads include Buncomb Road, Cave Springs Road, Lodge Hall Road, Smith Road, and Old County Road (within the City limits of McKee).

Fiscal Court Approves 2026 Tax Rate at Special Meeting



The Fiscal Court held a Special Meeting to review, discuss, and approve the 2026 Property Tax Rate

The Jackson County Fiscal Court held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, August 25th, 2026. There was a need to approve the 2026 Tax Assessment Rate in order to allow the Tax Bills to be printed and mailed in a timely manner. The Magistrates had been supplied with 2026 Tax Assessment Information at the last regular meeting with no action taken to review. **Under Kentucky's House Bill 44, county governments and other local taxing districts have three main choices when setting their annual property tax rates.**

1. Adopt the Compensating Rate: Under House Bill 44, the compensating tax rate is defined as that rate, when applied to the current year's assessment of real property, excluding new property, will produce an amount of revenue approximately equal as that produced last year from real property. Therefore, as real property assessments rise, the tax rate is rolled back to keep the revenue generated from the existing real property assessments about the same. This rate is set to bring in roughly the same amount of property tax revenue as the previous year, adjusting downward if property assessments go up. The compensating tax rate allows a taxing district, as a minimum, the same tax revenue that was produced in the preceding year. As assessments rise, the tax rate is rolled back so that revenue from existing property remains the same. A taxing district would receive additional revenue over the previous year only from assessments on any new property. This rate can be adopted automatically by the taxing district.

2. Adopt a 4% Increase Rate: This option raises a tax rate to bring in up to 4% more revenue from existing real property compared to the prior year. The 4% increase tax rate would enable a taxing district to increase its revenues by establishing a new tax rate which, when applied to real property that was taxed the preceding year, will produce no more than 4% additional revenue from that property. The jurisdiction would also gain the revenue generated from new property assessments. This tax rate requires a public hearing before it can be put into effect.

3. Adopt a Rate Exceeding 4% Growth: A higher rate can be chosen to generate more than 4% additional revenue, but any amount of revenue increase over the 4% cap is subject to a potential public recall petition by voters.

Judge Hays and Magistrate Vaughn both spoke strongly against approving any increase in property tax rates. Especially until a clearer picture of the county finances comes into view. Magistrate Vaughn recalled his stint as Temporary Interim Judge and said his main goal was to meet payroll

BRIAR - FROM 4

giving sustenance is a universal language we all speak and understand. There are all kinds of foods labeled "comfort food" but my favorite comfort food has always been food that is shared. Culturally, sharing food is one of the best ways of learning more about people we don't know much about. Our food is so bound up in our stories that it's impossible to share food without telling something of our story and learning something about someone else's.

I love soup beans and cornbread because I grew up eating them. They are part of my story. Knowing that tells you more about me than you would think at first glance. Soup beans weren't usually what the more "well to do" people were eating on a regular basis. The fact that most of the people in the county still eat soup beans and cornbread tells you most people in the county, whatever their social status might be now, didn't come from well to do folks and haven't for generations. That's actually true of most of the food you might "go out" to eat. The fare served in Mexican, Italian or Asian restaurants is usually the food that is most commonly eaten by people from those countries who aren't well to do, and haven't been for generations. And that tells us that most people from most places aren't well to do. Most people everywhere are making do with what they have and sharing it with others. A lot gets made of our differences, I know. Every week somebody is telling us to worry about people who don't look like us or don't come from same place we come from. But, when you scrape away all the trappings that seem to make us different and get down to the dinner table, it seems to me we are serving from the same hearts to feed the same tomorrows. I hope we will all learn eventually to break bread together because, beyond hatred and fear, there is much to be gained by welcoming all those who come to us by saying, "Did you eat, yet?"

In Loving Memory



"I Am the Love that I Live"
Carmen Leah Abner

Community Calendar - Upcoming Week

Thursday, Aug 27	
	2026 JC Fair - Family Fun Night McKee, KY McKee, KY 🕒 5:00 pm
Friday, Aug 28	
	Lilly Pad age 0-5 Jackson County Public Library McKee, KY 🕒 11:00 am
Saturday, Aug 29	
	Hook and Needle Jackson County Public Library McKee, KY 🕒 8:00 am
Tuesday, Sep 01	
	God's Outreach Food Box Distribution Jackson County Public Library McKee, KY 🕒 10:00 am

**For an extended Calendar
Vist our Online Edition
www.jacksonsunky.com**