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“Spirit of the Doughboy” Celebration Planned

Tourism Board Appointment Rejected by City Council

The first meeting of the new year for the Monticello City Council was a rare short session, lasting less than thirty minutes from call to order to adjournment.

The new Monticello Tourism Director, Todd McFarland, updated the council on plans for upcoming events and projects. He also said the city’s restaurant tax, which is funding tourism efforts, brought in just over \$54,000 for the month of November.

Planning is also underway for the “Spirit of the Doughboy” celebration to be held April 10, 2026, in conjunction with the Alvin C. York Foundation. It is expected York’s sole living daughter will be on hand for the event, which will fall one day after the “Doughboy” turns 103 years old.

It was also announced there are several other special events coming to the Monticello area over the next several months. Those include a Monster Truck event, as well as “Spring Fest”

to be held sometime in May, with additional details forthcoming.

The council voted to appoint Gary Gregory to the city’s Ethics Commission for a term from February 1, 2026 to February 1, 2028. Another board appointment presented by Mayor Kenny Catron to the council failed to garner support, receiving only a motion but no second. That meant the appointment of Jason Smith to the tourism board failed to even get a vote.

The council discussed the need for a backup police package vehicle, since the one currently in use causes safety concerns for officers due to issues with fuses blowing when being operated. Two bids were received on the potential purchase of a vehicle, with a third reportedly sought with no response.

Don Franklin bid \$42,898 on a Dodge Durango, while Bachman Automotive bid \$43,548 on the same type vehicle. The cost of either bid would also

have \$16,880 added for police equipment and graphics from Ridgenet.

Councilman Alan Hopper questioned if the vehicle purchase could be made using ABC (Alcohol Beverage Control) funds, since police vehicles are used in that effort. The council voted to accept the low bid, from Don Franklin, using ABC funds. The new vehicle will be used by the ABC Administrator with the current vehicle used by that office being reassigned as a police backup vehicle.

In other ABC business, it was reported that gross alcohol sales within the city for the month of November 2025 were \$322,060. The city collected \$15,686 in regulatory fees from those sales.

The police report for the city included responding to 482 calls for service during the month of December. The department reported \$2,350 in stolen property for the month with \$600

of that recovered. Major Josh Asberry represented the police department at the meeting and thanked the community for their support for the recent “Shop with a Hero” event for local kids.

Councilman Hopper gave an update on CTS from their most recent meeting, saying the East Highway 92-Duncan Valley Project is moving forward. Fiber has been installed and splicing will be completed in the next few weeks. He added that the Clinton County fiber project is also progressing well.

City Clerk/Treasurer Chris Dykstra was asked how the city’s tax collections are going. He said it is going well and should be on pace to match previous years with collections of about 96%-98%.

The next regular meeting of the Monticello City Council will be held Monday February 9, 2026 at 6:00pm at city hall.



Woman Convicted in 2008 Murder Maintains Her Innocence

Nearly twenty years after the lifeless body of Julie (Hicks) Burchett was discovered in an abandoned car in Monticello, the woman convicted of her murder continues to maintain her innocence in the case.

Hope White is currently serving a twenty-five year prison sentence at the Kentucky Correctional Institute for Women, located in Pee Wee Valley, Kentucky. The full prison term will

expire in June 2034, but White will be eligible for possible parole in June of 2029.

Burchett’s body was found in July 2008, stabbed at least nine times according to police reports. Her body was discovered in a car at an abandoned pallet mill. It was reported that White, who would eventually be convicted of the murder, was

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Glen Roberts Retiring This Week

After 3 1/2 years as Small Farm Assistant and 28 years as Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Wayne County, Glen Roberts is going to retire effective January 23, 2026. When Glen first began his career in Extension in 1984 as a Small Farm Assistant for KSU, the office was on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse. In 1987 Glen decided to be a full-time farmer for his vocation until 1998 when he became the Agriculture and Natural

Resources Extension Agent for Wayne County; by then the Extension Office shared a building with Farm Bureau. In 2005 the building people now come to today on Rolling Hills Boulevard was built and Glen remained the Agent until



Vote Now in the Wayne County Committee Election

Voting is now open for the USDA’s Farm Service Agency’s Wayne County Committee.

It is important that every eligible producer participates in these elections because the FSA county committees area link between the agricultural community and the USDA. County Committee elections in Wayne County will be conducted for the representative of Local Administrative Area 1 which consists of Cabell, Murl, Slat, Bethesda, Shearer Valley, Hidalgo, Powersburg, Slickford, Sunnybrook, Sandclift, Windy, Gap Creek, Zula, Susie, Buncomb County committee election ballots were mailed to eligible voters on Jan. 5, 2026. The last day to return

completed ballots to Wayne County FSA is Feb. 2, 2026. For more information on FSA county committee elections visit fsa.usda.gov/elections.

COC Nominee Wayne County LAA1 Mitchell Stephens. Mitchell is nominated in LAA 1 of Wayne County to serve as a COC member for a 3-year term beginning February 2026. Mitchell resides in LAA 1. He grew up on a family farm and that is where his passion for agriculture began. Mitchell has been a Kentucky Resident for 17 years, and in 2012 he settled in Wayne County where he currently runs a beef cattle operation. Stephens has previously served on the COC and is willing to serve another term if elected.

Board Approves School Calendar for 2026 - 2027

The Wayne County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 15. During the meeting, the board approved the school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. The first day for students will be August 12, 2026. The calendar includes a traditional fall break, Christmas break, and spring break, with the last day of class scheduled for May 17.

The board also approved construction documents for the WCHS Softball Field Renovation project, which will now go to bid. The project includes the construction of a press box, concession stand, restrooms, and locker room

facilities.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the 2024-2025 Financial Audit Report as presented by Montgomery and Company, P.L.L.C.

- Reviewed the draft budget for 2026-2027.

- Accepted an offer of assistance from the School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) in the amount of \$34,418 in annual debt service.

- Approved the purchase of two new buses (1 -52 passenger and 1 -72 passenger).

- Recognized students from Monticello Elementary and Wayne County

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