

THE WAYNE WEEKLY

€75

VOL. 05, NO. 47

thewayneweekly.com

10 Pages | 01 Section | Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Kody Ragan Named New Fire Chief

Efforts Underway to Recruit, Support New Firefighters

The Monticello Fire Department now has a new leader, with the hiring of Kody Ragan as Fire Chief by the city council in a special meeting Tuesday, February 3rd. The council voted



Monticello's new Fire Chief was sworn in Friday afternoon at the Fire Department on North Main.

unanimously, with member Alan Hopper absent, to hire Ragan as the new chief at an annual salary of \$47,500.

Each member of the council, including Mayor Kenny Catron, congratulated Ragan on the new post and wished him the best moving forward. Catron said "welcome to the family," while also indicating that some tough decisions and work would lie

ahead.

The Wayne Weekly spoke with Ragan the day after his hiring, which was also his first official day on the job as he jumped into the post right away. He said he looks forward to continuing to serve the citizens of the community in his new role with the fire department.

Ragan said he grew up around fire

departments, as the son of Kelly Ragan, who is known for his role as Chief of the Susie Fire Department. Kody Ragan has extensive experience in the field as well, including with the Susie department and in Somerset.

Chief Ragan is also a licensed EMT and a state fire instructor.

In his personal life, Kody is married to his wife Madison and they

have three children.

He gave thanks to the Lord and Jesus for all he has and all he has to offer the community through service.

An effort is currently underway to recruit new members to the Monticello Fire Department, with a new recruit course beginning in March. Chief Ragan said it is a great opportunity to serve your community and your neighbors through the fire department.

No experience is necessary to volunteer as a recruit for the department, with

See **Chief,**
Cont. on **Page A10**

Wayne County Clerk's Fee Account Audit

State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the 2024 financial statements of Wayne County Clerk Heather Piercy. State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Wayne County Clerk in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The clerk's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the clerk'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 all 120 clerk audits in Kentucky.

The auditor noted no instances of noncompliance. The auditor also noted no matters involving internal control over financial reporting and its operation that were considered to be material weaknesses.

The county clerk's responsibilities include collecting certain taxes, issuing licenses, maintaining county records, and providing other services. The clerk's office is funded through statutory fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

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

Fundraising Valentine Luncheon This Wednesday

Wayne County Hospital Volunteers are kicking off 2026 with the annual Valentines Luncheon. It will be held this Wednesday, February 11th. The meals will be available for dine-in or carry out. Meals will also be available for walk in purchases.

The menu will include a barbecue pork sandwich, coleslaw, baked beans, chips, pickle, cookie, and drink. The cost will be nine dollars per meal. For any questions or to pre-order, please reach out to Ann Hancock by calling 606-340-

3201. Keep in mind, meals will be available for walk in purchases the day of luncheon.

Hospital Volunteers appreciate your continued support to volunteers and Wayne County Hospital. They look forward to seeing you.

Woman and Police Officer Injured During Arrest

Daisy Roberta Cook, age 47, of Monticello was arrested last week by Sgt. Josh Smith at Monticello Walmart.

During the arrest, Cook resisted, resulting in minor injuries to both Cook and Sgt. Smith. Both were treated and released

from the Wayne County Hospital Emergency Room.

Cook was charged with:

- Robbery 1st Degree
- Assault on a Police Officer (striking Sgt. Smith in the face, then kicking and biting him)
- Disorderly Conduct

- Menacing
 - Resisting Arrest
 - Theft by Unlawful Taking (Shoplifting)
 - Assault 4th Degree and a Warrant for Failure to Appear in Wayne District Court.
- Cook was lodged in the Wayne County Detention Center.



Arrest Made After Woman Allegedly Beats on Door with Hammer

According to the Wayne County Sheriff's Dept, a Monticello woman has been arrested on multiple charges. Last week, Deputy Allen Cash was dispatched to a residence on Swifton Drive for a female standing outside a residence beating on a door with a hammer.

Upon Deputy Cash' arrival he made contact with the female who was still outside screaming with a hammer, while neighbors had been outside watching the disturbance. While

attempting to calm the female down, Deputy Cash observed dents in the door with the female admitting she had caused them. He then took statements from two individuals staying inside the residence, with both stating the female showed up and started beating on their door with a hammer while screaming at them.

Deputy Cash charged and arrested Victoria Roberts of Monticello for disorderly conduct-1st degree, criminal mischief-1st degree,

terroristic threatening-1st degree and menacing. Roberts was lodged in the Wayne County Detention Center.

The Wayne County Sheriff Office also served Jasey Acrey of Monticello with a Wayne County District Court Criminal Complaint Summons for failure of owner to maintain required insurance - 2nd offense. Acrey was given a Court date to appear.

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FEBRUARY

2026

10:30 - 1:30

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

\$9 MEAL WILL INCLUDE:

- BBQ PORK SANDWICH
- CHIPS
- BAKED BEANS
- COLESLAW
- PICKLE
- COOKIE
- DRINK

WAYNE COUNTY HOSPITAL
166 HOSPITAL ST
MONTICELLO, KY 42633
TO PLACE AN ORDER CALL
ANN AT :
606-340-3201
OR DINE IN WITH US

Wednesday



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Thursday



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Friday



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Saturday



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Sunday



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