

Fire
 He continued, "We extinguished the side first that was threatening the main building on HWY 421."
 According to Emergency Management Director Jamie Strong the big concern in the early morning was the smoke mixed with the fog. Anyone driving through the Clover Bottom area was asked to drive slow and with caution due to the limited visibility with the smoke and fog. The investigation continues while fire investigators were on the scene shortly after the fire, trying to determine the cause of the blaze.

Fiscal
 Courtney Hoskins from Key Life Insurance, who was there offering different types of insurance for the employees. After Judge Gabbard gave his report, the magistrates said they are getting the flex roads ready for paving.
 The sheriff was out on a call and could not attend the meeting. However, he is getting close to getting everything ready for the drug dog the sheriff's department will be receiving very soon.

Jailer Brian Gabbard has made his own payroll for the last two months. He is starting a work release program for the female inmates. The next item on the agenda was the sheriff deputies and assistants maximum amount allowable, which is set every year. It decides the maximum amount spendable for deputies and staff.

On the occupational tax report, Gabbard said, "This is the first time we've updated the court on the occupational tax. The account currently has \$80,000 available for general government bills. This was followed by the first reading of the ordinance for KACO Loan allowing the Fiscal Court the loan to pay the outstanding retirement bills."

The next item which was discussed and approved, the Fiscal Court had been offered the regional kitchen and voted to resume responsibility for it. The jail will be among many that will be able to use the facility for food prep and storage.

Judge Gabbard said, "We want it to stay open, so we are taking it over. We also voted and approved to lease three new pickups for the road department for one year to try out the Enterprise lease program. This is the first new trucks the county has had in over 20 years."

The offer of life insurance benefits as an option for employees was passed. Also passed, an official ordinance forming the Census Committee.

The Fiscal Court voted and approved to raise the county's contribution from \$300 to \$400 per employee plan to try to offset rising insurance costs.

An old bill for a CSEPP claim from October 20, 2013 which was brought to the Fiscal Court's attention by CSEPP was approved to pay outstanding bill.

Treasurers bills and transfers were approved and there were no comments or announcements. A special meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 11, at 1:00 pm. and the next regular monthly meeting will be in November.

Drugs
 while the sheriff's office was conducting a search for Daugherty, he found four marijuana plants on the home owner's property.

Due to the ongoing investigation, he was not able to give any other information, however when the investigation is completed he will do a follow up story at that time.

According to Isaacs, there has been no arrest made but the investigation is ongoing.

Sheriff
 day or night. Jackson County is a big county in area. We have only four deputies and me to answer around ninety calls for service every week, in addition to serving all the civil and criminal papers, answering questions from the public, typing cases and accident reports and testifying in court. Many times, only one officer is available to respond to serious issues, only because no one else is available. We have a great group of KSP troopers and

Constables who help as much as possible, but still there are not enough people to be at all places immediately when called. Therefore, all we can do is try, and we do try every day to make our county safer and better for all our citizens. We don't try to make excuses and we try to be reasonable with everyone. Thank those of you who understand.

Beware of people who would steal your vehicle! Recently I learned there are a group of thieves stealing vehicles in our region. I heard as many as two-hundred vehicles have been reported stolen in the surrounding counties. The vehicles sought out are usually not new, but the older vehicles without the tracking devices installed. Please be aware of this problem and remember to lock your vehicle when you are out and keep an eye out for people who may be looking to steal a car.

Last week the JCSO responded to ninety-one calls for service. We opened six criminal cases, made eight criminal arrests and investigated seven traffic accidents. Court security is now adequately staffed and handles most civil and court documents that must be served. We have good personnel who really try to do their job properly. I am very proud of my staff and I appreciate every prayer of support. Thank you.

Judge
 revolving around our community and amongst our employees is about the unpaid Kentucky Retirement bill so let me clarify on that situation. There were 2 months in 2015 and 6 months in 2016 that were left unpaid by the former treasurer. Those bills DO NOT add up to \$1,000,000 plus dollars. Every month that is paid into KY Retirement is different because hours being worked are different for many of our employees. Some work more hours one week than they do the next week so every payment to Retirement is different. We have been working with a representative from KY Retirement and financial advisors from KACO on a proper way to pay this

back and get everything owed to our Employees back in their retirement accounts. We owe, according to our retirement representative, a little over \$500,000 to KY Retirement not 1 million dollars. If we attempted to pay this back to retirement without acquiring a loan to do so we would end up being penalized \$1,000 monthly plus interest until the total bill was paid. If we acquire this loan KY Retirement has agreed to knock off over \$23,000 of penalties and by paying now we also will be avoiding \$46,000 of interest. KY Retirement does not have payment plans and if we do not resolve this issue now then we will be faced with a situation we may never resolve. The loan we are asking to receive will not be a waste of taxpayer money but overall will save the citizens of this county thousands of dollars in penalties and interest. Ultimately, I feel it's the best thing to do concerning our employees and will finally have unpaid obligations from the former treasurer paid up. The Fiscal Court HAS NOT raised any taxes or introduced any new tax since 2015 nor do we plan to in order to pay

this loan back. Also, we have not been late on a retirement payment since August of 2016 on our employees and our retirement representative said everything owed to them from that day is current and paid timely. My staff and our current treasurer deserve the recognition for that as they do a good job of keeping such claims in order. While on the subject of taxes let me clarify on our County Occupational Tax. In December of 2012, the Fiscal Court saw the need to raise the occupation tax from 1% to 1.85% due to various issues at that time. I was asked the other day about if there was something written in that ordinance that proclaimed a date or time that the .85% would come from the tax rate. I have been looking over the ordinance and can't find any such language contained within that has a stipulation of any percent of it coming off in a certain date. Sadly, this kind of false information seems to be common in today's society. It is ultimately the Fiscal Courts will to see it drop down but unfortunately now isn't that time. I continue to work daily to improve

our local economy and maybe one day we can see that happen. If anyone ever has any questions on these matters feel free to contact me. I don't want anyone to be misadvised on what this Fiscal Court is doing.

I would also like update the court on what else we've been busy doing. In the last couple of weeks, we have had a 2020 Census Committee meeting, Work Ready Committee Meeting, IDA meeting and visitors from Frankfort. Overall, I would say the current state of county government is good. We are still looking at ways to grow every industry in our county and don't intend to slow down anytime soon. Lastly, I want to remind everyone to get out and vote in November. Tuesday, November 6th is Election Day and there are local and state candidates on the ballot in the general election. Remember, the right to vote is a right that many of our Veterans fought and some even died to obtain. I hope you choose to exercise your right to vote and not take it for granted.

God Bless

October Money Tip for Students

If you finished college in May and have federal student loans, it's almost time to start repaying them. These tips from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEEA) may help.

One of the smartest things you can do is pay more than your scheduled amount. If you ask your lender to apply the extra to the principal, you'll pay less interest over the life of your loan.

You have several plans from which to choose. The standard repayment plan calls for equal monthly payments over 10 years. The minimum monthly payment is usually \$50. Other options include:

Graduated repayment, with lower amounts that get higher over the 10-year period.

Income-driven repayment plans, with monthly amounts based on income and family size. Some plans forgive the balance if you make on-time payments for a certain time.

Pay As You Earn, if you received no loans before Oct. 1, 2007, and at least one loan after Sept. 30, 2011.

You'll probably pay more interest over the life of the loan if you use any option other than standard repayment. Also, you may have to pay taxes on any amount that is forgiven. Remember that the federal government can change repayment programs at any time.

October Financial Aid Tip

One important phrase in the language of student aid is satisfactory academic progress, or SAP, according to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEEA).

All colleges that award federal student aid must have SAP standards. Those standards are based on three key areas: your GPA, your pace and a maximum timeframe.

The GPA you're required to have may vary by school, major and whether you're an undergraduate or graduate student.

Your pace means that you have to pass a stated percentage of the classes you take in a given period of time. It may also vary by college.

The maximum timeframe means you'll have to finish your degree within a given number of attempted credit hours. For example, your school requires you to pass 120 credit hours to earn a bachelor's degree. The maximum timeframe might be that you have to pass those 120 hours without attempting more than 150 hours.

The catch is: if you don't meet your school's SAP standards, you may not be able to receive state or federal student aid. Make sure you know what your college's standards are before you get in trouble.

KHEEA is the state agency that administers the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES). Its sister agency, the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC), offers Advantage Loans to help students and parents pay for college or to refinance student loans. For more information, visit www.advantageeducationloan.com.

Public Service Announcement / Laurel County

London, Ky. (October 09, 2018) – The Kentucky State Police Post 11, London which provides coverage for Laurel County will be conducting periodic traffic safety checkpoints in the East Bernstadt, Pittsburg, McWhorter, Bush, Colony, Lily, Keavy and North Corbin areas. These locations are approved by the Kentucky State Police Policy and Procedures Manual. The checkpoints will be conducted from 4:00 PM until 4:00 AM.

These checkpoints will be conducted in an effort to enforce the traffic laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Special attention will be paid to occupant protection (seatbelt adherence), sobriety, insurance and registration violations.

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