

Cleaning House?

New county judge-executive Tommy Harmon terminates numerous positions

■ POSITIONS
TERMINATED

-Disaster Emergency
Services Dir., Asst.

-Office staff

-Tax Administrator

-Grant Writer

-Communication Dir.

-Dog Warden/Solid
Waste Coordinator

Staff Report
ENTERPRISE NEWS

New county judge-executive Tommy Harmon started his administration off with a bang by not rehiring several appointed positions within the county.

A special called meeting was held Monday morning at 9 a.m. to discuss county employment.

The fiscal court was presented a list of terminations of appointed positions by the county judge.

Those positions were:

- Disaster Emergency Services Director David Watson.
- DES Assistant Brian Jackson.
- Dog Warden/Solid Waste Coordinator Chris Reid.
- Occupational Tax Administrator Ted Woods and assistant Marsha Woods.

-County Judge-Executive office Secretary's Fern Hacker and Mona Davis.

-Communications Director Earl Owens.

-Grant writer Pam Mathis.

County Attorney Joe White addressed the court the change in administration would require a decision be made on which

See **CHANGES** A8

DAWN OF A NEW ERA



Lawson
formal
sentencing

Ashley Lawson will be sentenced Monday in murder of Trevor Dykes

Staff Report
ENTERPRISE NEWS

Formal sentencing will be held Monday in Clay Circuit Court for Ashley Lawson, convicted in the murder of Trevor Dykes.

It took a jury over 10 hours to return the guilty verdict against Ashley Lawson in the death of Trevor Dykes in July 2015.

The jury recommended a sentence of 20 years on a charge of complicity to commit murder. Circuit Judge Honorable Oscar G. House will conduct the formal sentencing on January 9th as he takes the jury recommendation under consideration.

See **LAWSON** A8

Manchester Mayor Steve Collins and County Judge-Executive Tommy Harmon shake hands at a joint gathering Monday as the two officially took office. Photo by Les Nicholson



(L-R) County Attorney Joe White, Magistrate Sonny Gay, County Clerk Beverly Craft, Magistrate Bill Warren, Coroner Jarrod Becknell, Jailer Linda Smallwood, Magistrate Jerry Combs, Magistrate Sonya Hoskins Gray, Magistrate Russell Smith, Magistrate Chris Smith, County Judge-Executive Tommy Harmon and Constable Harvey Dean Collins all take the oath of office administered by Hon. Circuit Judge Oscar G. House. Photo by Les Nicholson

CHIEF COMBS RETIRES



City police chief Jason Combs poses with his children and wife Carla on his last day of work. Combs retired from the position after serving nearly 25 years in law enforcement.



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FALL 2022

LEAPFROG
HOSPITAL
SAFETY GRADE



Advent Health



A.J. Henson
Warrant



Alex Howard
Disorderly Conduct



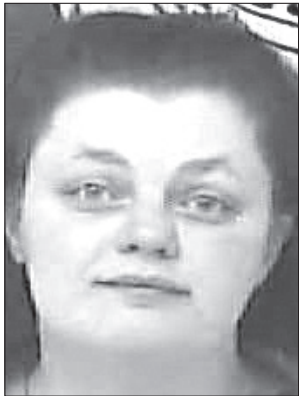
Christian McNeal
Terroristic Threatening 3



Connie Box
Failure to Appear



Jasmine Letendre
Warrant



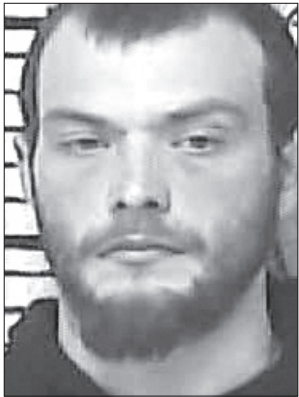
Kimberly Morris
Assault 1



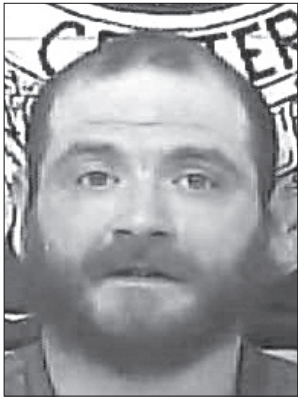
Leonard Holland
Criminal Mischief 1



Malena Griffie
Drug Court Violation



Martin Bowling
Theft by Unlawful Taking



Matthew Root
Disorderly Conduct



Michael North
Failure to have Insurance



Stephen Baird
Theft by Unlawful Taking

Sheriff’s Report:

- James Warren, 4/21/80, warrant.
- Jimmy Dees, 9/22/87, warrant.
- Paul Cupp, 11/2/46, terroristic threatening 2nd; menacing; wanton endangerment 1st; TBUT.
- Mickey Napier, 5/27/97, warrant.
- Gary McQueen, 3/17/81, warrant.
- Ralph Hall, 11/1/94, warrant.
- Todd Ruth, 5/16/77, warrant.
- Matthew Benge, 10/24/81, warrant.
- Devol Douglas, 10/23/93, warrant.
- Michael Jones, 3/9/81, warrant.
- Billy Buttery, 8/3/99, receiving stolen property.
- Skylar Hubbard, 2/19/04, receiving stolen property, TBUT.
- Korey Mullins, 9/9/90, one headlight, rear license not illuminated, operating on susp. Or revoked license, failure of non-owner operator to maintain required ins/sec. 1st off.
- Robert Abner, 8/1/86, indictment warrant.
- Ralph McKinney, 2/7/83, receiving stolen property.
- Michael Cohorn, 9/18/84, indictment warrant.
- Logan Agee, 1/10/95, criminal mischief and alcohol intoxication.

- Brandy Sizemore, 12/7/81, warrant.
- Jonathan Smith, 9/3/87, warrant.
- April Ghent, 9/25/86, speeding 26 mph over; careless driving; fleeing or evading police; TBUT firearm; TBUT over \$10k; operating on suspended or revoked license; license to be in possession; TBUT.
- Cory Jackson, 10/20/92, warrant.

DEEDS:

- Madison Collins and POFP to Harold Wayne Collins. Land on Root’s Branch. Tax 50 cents. Filed 12/21/22.
- DGS Development to Steven and Leah Drew. Land on Lewis and Collins Farm. Tax \$59. Filed 12/22/22.
- Dallas Robinson, Jr. and POFP to Allan Robinson. Land on Sexton’s Creek. Tax \$40. Filed 12/22/22.
- Sonya Reynolds to Allan Robinson. Land on Big Sexton’s Creek. Tax \$33.50. Filed 12/22/22.
- Danya Brown and Alex to Donald Eisenhart. Land on Rader’s Creek. Tax \$140.00. Filed 12/22/22.
- Arnold Gray and Geraldine to Ronald Wilson and

- POSP. Land on Swafford’s Branch. Tax \$15. Filed 12/22/22.
- Wayne McDaniel to William Warren. Land on Laurel Creek. Tax \$10. Filed 12/22/22.
- Candis Jo Fox to Burgundy Turner and William Warren. Land on U.S. Hwy. 421. Tax \$8.50. Filed 12/22/22.
- Eugene Sparks to Donnie and Barbara Sparks. Land on Sexton’s Creek. Tax \$10 Filed 12/27/22.

Jail Report:

- Bookings-Robert Abner, Logan Agee, Travis Box, Michael Brock, Michael Cohorn, April Ghent, Korey Mullins, Christopher Napier, Brooke Robinson, Brandy Sizemore, Brian Smith, Justin Venable, Bradley Wagers.
- Releases-Burkey Abner, Hector Bonia, Donny Byrd, Michael Davidson, Rodney Dodson, Nichole Hamilton, Julie Horn, Cory Jackson, Ralph McKinney, James Napier, Vivian Saylor, Jonathar Smith, Mark Webb.

CHANGES

From A1

employees that would continue employment. Those being reemployed would need to be approved at their current salary.

“Notification would also need made on those not being rehired,” White told Harmon.

Harmon then read the list of those employees he would not be retaining.

The judge requested a motion on rehiring the employees. Magistrate Chris Smith broke the long silence by making a motion. A second to the motion did not come.

Magistrates were taken by surprise at the list.

Several questioned clarifications on what the motion entailed. Magistrates then requested if they could go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and were advised they could if Smith rescinded the motion on the floor.

Smith rescinded his motion and Magistrate Bill Warren asked for a motion to enter closed session.

The private discussion in closed session lasted over 30 minutes before reconvening.

After the discussion Smith again made the motion to rehire the existing employees except for those receiving non-reemployment letters. Warren then seconded after clarifying this was for rehire only, not approving termination. All voted yes.

The next order of business was to fill several of the positions terminated.

-Vickie Lunsford Nicholson was approved as the new financial officer.

-Rodney Wagers approved to continue as the Emergency Services Director.

-Disaster Emergency Services Director Ryan Smith, who also serves as the 911 coordinator.

-Lester Harmon as county road foreman. Tom Beatty retired after over 30 years with the county and served as road foreman. Harmon also held the position under the last Crawdad Sizemore administration.

-Donna Gray as Occupational Tax Administrator. All positions were approved by the court.

LAWSON

From A1

She will appear in front of Judge House at 1 p.m.

Lawson was found guilty of creating the murder plot with her then boyfriend/acquaintance Thomas Miracle so she could gain sole custody of their child.

The defense claimed Lawson was innocent and that her former boyfriend created the plan to curry favor with her.

Miracle pleaded guilty to hiring Roscoe Henson to commit the murder. Both men have pleaded guilty to their charges; Miracle, complicity to commit murder and Henson for murder. Henson was sentenced to 25 years and Miracle 30 years as part of their plea agreements.

Man charged with killing father, step-mother to appear in court

Gregory Jackson accused in 2015 double homicide

Staff Report
ENTERPRISE NEWS

A man accused of murdering is father and step-mother will appear in Clay Circuit Court Monday.

Gregory Jackson, 41, is scheduled for a pretrial conference in the December 2015 deaths of Leon and Shirley Jackson on Burchell Branch Road.

The Jackson’s were found at their home, only three miles from Manchester, after their pastor, Chris Roberts, checked on the couple because he hadn’t heard from them in two weeks.

Leon Jackson, 64 and Shirley, 65, were pronounced dead from gunshot wounds.

Gregory Jackson was arrested just days after the murder for a parole violation and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. In August 2016, he was indicted for using Leon Jackson’s identification to obtain cash from an ATM machine on December 9, 2015.

The murder indictment was returned in September 2016, court records indicate.

Jackson has prior convictions of robbery in Bell County in 2012 and theft by unlawful taking in Laurel County in 2013.



Gregory Jackson has been lodged in the Clay Detention Center since December 2015.

Francis to make court appearance on murder, escape charges

Staff Report
ENTERPRISE NEWS

A man that attempted to flee from his trial on murder will appear in court Monday.

Alfred Francis, 40, will answer to charges of murder and escape after he failed to appear for his trial in October.

Francis was charged with the vehicular murder of J.D. “Black Stallion” Hacker, of Big Creek from April 2019. A vehicle Francis was driving struck the popular trucker head-on near Big Creek Elementary. Hacker later died from injuries sustained in the accident.

Francis was set to appear for the start of the murder trial in October and did not show up in Clay Circuit Court.

Kentucky State Police caught Francis last month on Rowl Street in Hazard.



Hon. Circuit Judge Oscar G. House administered the oath of office to county clerk, jail and sheriff’s department employees during a ceremony last week at the courthouse.