

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In The Matter Of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF MORGAN)	
COUNTY WATER DISTRICT FOR RATE ADJUSTMENT)	CASE NO.
PUSUANT TO 807 KAR 5:076)	2024-00010

**MORGAN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT’S
VERIFIED MOTION FOR EMERGENCY INTERIM RATE INCREASE**

Comes Morgan County Water District (“Morgan District”), by and through counsel, pursuant to KRS 278.190(2), and other relevant authority, hereby moves the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) to schedule an emergency hearing to allow Morgan District to present evidence to the Commission to show the need for an emergency interim rate increase in this proceeding and an expedited review of its application for rate adjustment pursuant to 807 KAR 5:076 filed March 15, 2024. In support of this motion Morgan District states as follows:

1. On March 15, 2024, Morgan District tendered an application, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:076. A deficiency letter was entered on March 20, 2024 and Morgan District has submitted materials to cure those deficiencies at the time of this filing. Morgan District now seeks approval to put 25.3% first phase increase of rates into effect at the earliest date possible subject to refund to meet the debt service requirements of its lenders while the Commission considers Morgan District’s application for rate adjustment. The requested first phase amount will allow Morgan District to meet its debt service requirements and Morgan District will maintain its records in such detail as to be prepared to refund any difference should the Commission determine

a different rate. The 25.3% rate is the lowest amount that could be put in place at this time to allow the utility to “break-even” and is the most conservative increase it could request.¹ The full requested rate increase of 41% over three years will generate a total of approximately \$767,513 in additional annual revenue from water sales and is supported in the application submitted for filing on March 15, 2024.

2. Morgan District has dedicated resources to addressing regulatory compliance since the orders and recommendation from the Commission in Case No. 2019-00041.² Morgan District’s Board of Commissioners and manager have made considerable progress in addressing previous system deficiencies identified by Kentucky Division of Water and the Commission. In the process of the considerable efforts to improve the utility, the operating expenses have increased. More importantly, the Board identified inaccuracies in the utility’s book-keeping data in March of 2023 and changed work assignments to address the inaccuracies. Due to the information collected through those changes the Board discovered large losses in January of 2024 and took action to seek this rate adjustment which was already in preparation, to be effected as soon as possible.
3. The Board and management thought they were attending to the financial needs of the utility through regular reports and financial efforts made, including; preparing and filing a rate case in 2021,³ planning for long term efforts, administering a

¹ See the Excel spreadsheet entitled, “*Projection of Revenues Expenses Debt Service Payments*” uploaded separately in the electronic filing system.

² See Case No. 2019-00041, (“Case No. 2019-00041 Investigation”) *Electronic Investigation into Excessive Water Loss by Kentucky’s Jurisdictional Water Utilities* (Ky. PSC Nov. 22, 2019), Appendix L, Confronting the Problems Plaguing Kentucky’s Water Utilities: An Investigative Report by the Kentucky Public Service Commission November 2019.

³ Case No. 2020-00386, *Electronic Application of Morgan County Water District for Rate Adjustment Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:076* (Ky PSC June 9, 2021).

surcharge to address reduction of water loss,⁴ and applying for projects to improve the system. Since the Commission's Order in Case No. 2019-00041,⁵ the Board and management focused on reducing water loss to cut costs in the fastest way possible, and there have been major improvements reducing the water loss from approximately 60% to 30%, that were achieved in part using surcharge funds, grant funds, and utility funding. While the efforts continue, Morgan District has also had to add staff to bring the utility into regulatory compliance that had not been addressed in years.

4. Due to the inaccurate financial data and the end of receiving grant money that funded the positions of five employees, the utility's financial resources were much more stressed than the Board's previous understanding. The public reaction to the notice of this rate adjustment proceeding was unprecedented. The Board and management had to address misinformation about the rate case affecting public comments, and significant personnel issues that occurred at the same time as notice was posted in February 2024.
5. Morgan District's Board of Commissioners and manager sought assistance with its application for a rate adjustment in December 2022 with Kentucky Rural Water Association, well in advance of the February 2025 deadline for an adjustment of rates ordered by the Commission. Morgan District has implemented policies to prevent an emergency situation such as this; however, the facts herein show these policies did not account for every occurrence and Morgan District is in need of an

⁴ Case No.2021-00206, *Electronic Morgan County Water District's Unaccounted Water-loss Reduction Plan, Surcharge and Monitoring* (Ky PSC Dec. 4, 2023).

⁵ Case No. 2019-00041 Investigation.

emergency rate increase so that it can meet its debt requirements.⁶ Morgan District's Board of Commissioners are prepared to promptly respond to information requests and have prepared emergency cost reductions and plans to delay expenses that can be to make every effort to address the critical financial state.

6. 807 KAR 5:076, Section 5(2) requires a utility to provide notice of a proposed rate increase. On February 22, 2024, Morgan District provided the first customer notice of the rate adjustment proceeding in the newspaper in Morgan District.⁷ If the Commission determines that any errors occurred with the content of that Customer Notice or the timing of the Customer Notice, Morgan District moves the Commission for deviation from the notice requirements of the proposed rate increase.
7. Regarding a hearing on this motion for the Commission to consider emergency interim rates, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:076, Section 12(3), notice of a hearing is to be published no fewer than seven (7) days and no more than twenty-one (21) days before the hearing. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:0076, Section 17 upon a showing of good cause, the Commission may grant a deviation from the notice requirements. Morgan District requests the Commission find that good cause exists for deviation from the required notice for the emergency hearing. Morgan District requests the Commission find that Morgan District's publishing of hearing notice on its website, and on its social media account, as well as posting it at its office, satisfies the requirements for the hearing notice. The emergency nature of Morgan District's

⁶ See the Excel spreadsheet entitled, "*Projection of Revenues Expenses Debt Service Payments*" uploaded separately in the electronic filing system.

⁷ See Application, Customer Notice (filed March 15, 2024) and Exhibit A, local newspapers containing Notice and multiple articles on this proceeding.

request for interim rates is good cause to deviate from the publication frequency requirements in 807 KAR 5:076, Section 12(3) and 807 KAR 5:001, Section 9(2)(b). Additionally, the large quantity of public comments in this matter indicate the effectiveness of the Customer Notice given in February 2024 and the public awareness noted in local newspapers and at the Morgan District Board meeting on March 11, 2024.⁸

8. The Morgan County Water District Board of Commissioners has received several objections from ratepayers regarding this proposed rate increase, particularly related to affordability of the future water bills. Morgan District has been and will continue to consider every policy in terms of its most vulnerable customers, including reviewing its leak adjustment practices so that those customers impacted by leaks are treated with as much consideration as possible within the tariff provisions.
9. KRS 278.190(2) permits the Commission to implement emergency rates subject to refund after a hearing if Morgan District's credit or operations will be materially impaired or damaged if the proposed rates are not permitted to become effective during the further review of the rate application. Therefore, Morgan District requests the Commission schedule a hearing at its earliest availability to hear evidence for the need of the emergency rate increase as well as grant a deviation of the notice requirements for the hearing pursuant to 807 KAR 5:076, Section 17.

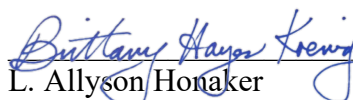
WHEREFORE, Morgan District respectfully requests that the Commission schedule a hearing to take evidence on Morgan District's request to place emergency interim rates into effect subject

⁸ Exhibit A.

to refund to address a crucial financial need.⁹ Finally, Morgan District requests that the Commission grant deviations to the public notice requirement for the rate application and emergency public hearing in this proceeding.

This 22nd day of March, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,



L. Allyson Honaker
Brittany Hayes Koenig
Heather S. Temple
Honaker Law Office, PLLC
1795 Alysheba Way, Suite 6202
Lexington, Kentucky 40509
(859) 368-8803
allyson@hloky.com
brittany@hloky.com
heather@hloky.com

Counsel for Morgan County Water District

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that the foregoing copy of Morgan District Water District's Motion for Emergency Rate Increase is being electronically transmitted to the Commission on March 22, 2024; and that there are currently no parties that the Commission has excused from participation by electronic means in this proceeding. Pursuant to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020- 00085, no hard copies of this filing will be made.



Counsel for Morgan County Water District


⁹ Exhibit B-Board Resolution.

VERIFICATION

STATE OF KENTUCKY)
)
COUNTY OF MORGAN) SS:

The undersigned, Shannon Elam, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the General Manager of Morgan County Water District, that he has personal knowledge of the matters set forth in the foregoing, and that the information contained therein is true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

MORGAN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

By: 
Shannon Elam, General Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Shannon Elam, General Manager of Morgan County Water District, on this 22nd day of March, 2024.


NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:
7-28-27



EXHIBIT A

ARE YOU COVERED?
ALL RISKS - UNLIMITED BENEFITS



We Have **MANY** Companies To Quote Your Insurance With

ISON
 Insurance Agency, Inc.
 506-743-4472
 facebook

The Licking Valley Courier

(USPS-312-040)

West Liberty, Kentucky 41472
 Thursday, February 22, 2024

Advertising Opportunity

For Advertising Message and Logo can go here where it is certain to be seen and read!



Call 743-5531 Today - Ask For Rick

Vol. 113 - No. 51 SPEAKING OF AND FOR MORGAN, THE BLUEGRASS COUNTY OF THE MOUNTAINS **75** Per Copy \$22.00 Year in County \$26.00 Year in Kentucky \$38.00 Year Outside Kentucky

GADD MotorMeals

Fri., Feb. 23
J.A. Oldfield & Son
Time: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Morgan native performing in Dolly Parton's Stampede

Aradyn Vest relocated to Pigeon Forge to ride horses in popular show

By Miranda M. Cantrell

A Morgan County native is currently performing in an internationally-renowned entertainment production in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Aradyn Vest, 18, formerly of West Liberty, recently relocated to Tennessee after being cast in the "Dolly Parton's Stampede" dinner attraction following her audition in January.

The Stampede is billed as "the world's most visited dinner show attraction," featuring horse riding, stunts, special effects, musical productions and a four-course meal.

Vest — a 2023 graduate of Morgan County High School who recently earned a phlebotomy certification — said she is realizing her lifelong dream of working with horses as a rider in the show.

"I grew up on horses," Vest said. "At the [Morgan County] rodeo, I carried the flag on horseback during the grand entry. I auditioned for the Stampede on Jan. 7, and the whole reason I came to Pigeon Forge was because I wanted to have a



Aradyn Vest

job with horses and do something I love ... It's a feeling I can't really describe."

Vest said she performed in 15 shows for large crowds last week with approximately 25 other cast members including 12 riders.

"Overall it's a really great experience to have the opportunity to perform in front of

everyone," Vest said. "I haven't signed on for any specific amount of time. I can stay as long as I want since I got casted."

Vest also told the Courier that she is a "huge fan" of the show's namesake, Dolly Parton.

"It's absolutely amazing," she said. "See ARADYN, Page 3"

Home destroyed in Feb. 14 fire on Liberty Road

Firefighters prevent spread to nursing home, other nearby structures

West Liberty Fire Department (W.F.D.) responded to a fire that destroyed a home on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 14, near West Liberty Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

Dispatchers were notified at 9:37 p.m. of a fire at 788 Liberty Rd., where firefighters arrived to find heavy smoke and fire emanating from the rear of the single-family dwelling of Crestida Perry.

WV PD Chief Jason Phelan

Water district files application w/PSC for 41% rate hike

General manager says increase suggested by Ky. Rural Water Assn. after rate study

By Miranda M. Cantrell

Morgan County Water District General Manager Shannon Egan has announced that his entity's board has filed an application with the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) for a significant customer rate increase.

Egan told the Courier on Feb. 19 that the water district board members have requested a 41 percent increase following a recent rate study conducted by Kentucky Rural Water Association officials.

"This is the proposed rate [the Kentucky Rural Water Association] came up with, Egan said. "It was approved by the water district board. We are going to file an application with the PSC. It normally takes six months to review, and the PSC will issue the final rate adjustment. It could be less; it could be more."

Egan noted that the water district is required to do a rate study review every three years, with the last evaluation being in 2021.

As per a legal advertisement appears elsewhere in this edition, the new minimum monthly bills for residential and commercial customers would be as follows:

- 3/4-Inch x 5/8-Inch Meter - Increases by \$13.10 from \$21.89 to \$34.99
- 1-Inch Meter - Increases by \$27.73 from \$67.62 to \$95.35
- 2-Inch Meter - Increases by \$70.22 from \$171.93 to \$242.15
- 6-Inch Meter - Increases by \$394.87 from \$663.03 to \$1,057.90

The water district's most recent rate hike prior to this week's application came

See RATES, Page 3

News Of Record

CLARIFICATIONS
- The Lisa Lewis recently listed in the News Of Record is NOT Lisa M. Lewis of 480 Graham Rd., West Liberty.

- The Donnie Keeton listed in this week's News of Record is NOT Magistrate Donnie Keeton of 1029 Dedman Branch Rd., West Liberty, Ky.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

- Alexis Michela Branscum, 24 of West Liberty, Ky., daughter of Timothy Michael Branscum and Tamara Bowler Branscum, to Marlon Perry Fritalin, 25, of West Liberty, Ky., son of Darby Marlon Franklin and Jody Mae Bradley Franklin.

- Houston Wyatt Eam, 28, of West Liberty, Ky., son of Tiffany Colley and Darren Eam, to Kayla Patricia Joseph Wallace, 29, of West Liberty, Ky., daughter of Sara Elizabeth and Willie Ross.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Cascade Funding Mortgage Trust #84 to Joshua Oplet and Zoe Oplet - Land located on the west side of State Route 882 \$76,500.

- William Kidd and Samantha Kidd to George Moran and Madelon Moran - Land located on Hwy. 191 near Adelle Hill \$1,000.

- Eva Pflanzky to Nathan Seaton - Land on the waters of Hog Camp Branch, a tributary of Youen Creek, on Daisy Ridge containing 1 acre more or less \$20,000.

- Judy F. Burchett to Sean Scott Holbrook - Tract 1, beginning at a net stake at Hwy. 589 near a half road containing 1 acre more or less. Tract 2, A tract on the right-hand fork of Smith Creek, a tributary of Paint Creek, beginning at corner of Parsy Crabtree land south of Hwy. 489 containing 3 acres more or less \$192,000.

CIRCUIT COURT

- New civil suits - Linda Ball vs. Dave Perdue et al., Feb. 19; Anthony Williams #28408 vs. Warden David Green et al., Feb. 9; Bank of America vs. Avanelle S. Adams, Feb. 15.

DISTRICT COURT

- New civil suits - Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Jared Lewis, Feb. 9; Isaiah Perkins et al. vs. Charles Perkins vs. Nathan Peter Conroy, Feb. 13; Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. David McGuinn, Feb. 14; Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Karlee Weber.

ARRAIGNMENTS

- John B. Bailey - operating on a suspended operator's license, failure of operator to maintain required insurance - failed to appear, bench warrant issued.

- Autumn Hope Campbell -

speeding 5 mph over limit - rescheduled March 12.

- Mark A. Gibson - receiving stolen property over \$1,000 but under \$10,000 - preliminary hearing Feb. 27.

- David Gomez - operating vehicle with expired operator's license - failed to appear, bench warrant issued.

- Gregory W. Greene - speeding 5 mph over limit, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol - pre-trial conference March 12.

- Earl Dewayne Hill - speeding 17 mph over limit - pleaded guilty \$24, failure to produce insurance card - pleaded guilty, \$50.

- James K. Jones - public intoxication by a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance (first degree), first offense, (second), possession of a controlled substance (first degree), first offense, opiates (two counts), drug paraphernalia (buy/possess), possession of marijuana - preliminary hearing Feb. 27.

- Melissa Anna Mayhew - speeding 5 mph over limit - rescheduled March 14.

- Tiffany Nicole Patti - failure to produce insurance card - pleaded guilty, \$50.

- Matthew Tobin Wright - speeding 25 mph over limit, operating on suspended operator's license, failure to produce insurance card, possession of an open alcohol beverage container in a motor vehicle, second



Brody Ison Recipient Of 4-H Bronze Achievement Award

Brody Ison, of West Liberty, was recently named a 2024 Kentucky 4-H Bronze Achievement Award recipient! This award recognizes youth for their 4-H Participation Level at county, area and state. 4-H levels. Congratulations to Brody on this 4-H achievement!

to be in possession - pre-trial conference March 12.

- Matthew D. Tobin-Wright - failure of owner to maintain required insurance, driving on, D.U.I. - suspended license - pre-trial conference March 12.

- Thomas Bailey - complicity to fleeing to evading police (first degree) - preliminary hearing Feb. 20.

- Thomas Bailey - resisting arrest, disorderly conduct (second degree) - pre-trial conference Feb. 20.

- Dennis Keeton - public intoxication by a controlled substance, resisting arrest, criminal trespass (third degree) - pre-trial conference Feb. 20.

- Miley Ryan - lewd and lascivious behavior (third degree), harassing communications - pre-trial conference Feb. 20.

- Pre-trial conference - Gerald Williams - theft by unlawful taking (petty) - pleaded guilty, 45 days, concurrent with felony case in Magoffin County.

- Pre-trial conference - Anthony Battle - assault (fourth degree, minor injury) - rescheduled June 11.

- Pre-trial conference - Darius Ferguson - operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol - suppression hearing March 14; 20; 26; 30; 31; 31.

- Pre-trial conference - Dallas Moore - cultivating marijuana (less than five plants, first degree) - property forfeited to law enforcement.



Aradyn Vest carries the American flag during a recent rodeo in Morgan County. (Photo courtesy of Aradyn Vest)

Aradyn ...

(Continued From Page One)

Vest said of performing in the Parton-branded attraction: "I miss being there," Vest said. "My horse, my dogs and my family are all there. It's been an adjustment. I want to thank family for being behind

me 100 percent and supporting me. Especially my mom, Tracy, for always being there and hauling me to rodeos and horse shows, and for giving me the love of horses since I was a little girl."

Vest encouraged others to follow their own dreams. "If you put your mind to something you can do anything," Vest said. "I'm just really grateful for this opportunity to do something I love."

Additional Information

Aradyn Vest is the daughter of Jerry and Tracy Vest, of West Liberty.

Dolly Parton's Stampede Dinner Theatre is located at 3849 Parkway, between traffic lights 8 and 10, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

For more information regarding Dolly Parton's Stampede schedules and tickets call the box office at (865) 453-4400 or visit the website www.dolystampede.com

Rates ...

(Continued From Page One)

in 2021, with the graduated implementation of 13.7 percent increase in rates (one and a half

Since the 2019 PSC hearing the water district has received a \$1.5 million loan and an \$85,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that employees have used for improvements in recent years.

Additionally, Elam said the district has also used the three additional projects to be funded with a \$5 million federal Clean Water grant at a later date.

In September, 2023, the water district purchased for \$124,060 a lot on Glenn Avenue adjacent to the post office, where officials plan to build a new office with a drive-thru in the near future.

"We have applied for a \$5 million Appalachian Regional Commission grant," Elam said, noting that he has been in contact with State Senator Brandon Smith, State Rep. Richard White and U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers about the building project.

Water district employees have been housed in the former Rife Coal building on Hwy. 172 since the 2012 tornado destroyed their previous location in the former Kennedy Memorial Library building.

Elam told the Courier last

year that the water district currently leases the former Rife Coal building from the Morgan County Fiscal Court, an entity that is separate of the water district.

The water district in ladies 16 employees and a board comprised of chairman, Brian Wells, Secretary/Treasurer, Zachary Eagle and Commissioners Steve Gunnell, Steve Clark and Rains Helton.

Additional Information

Citizens can inspect the rate increase application to the Public Service Commission in the Morgan County Water District Office located at 1099 Hwy. 172 in West Liberty, or contact water district officials at 743-1294.

Comments regarding the application can be submitted to the Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602, or through the PSC website at <http://psc.ky.gov>

If the PSC does not receive a written request for intervention within 30 days of the initial publication of the legal advertisement appearing elsewhere in this edition, PSC officials may take final action on the application.

in starting a neighborhood watch program to contact the sheriff's office.

Any additional neighborhood watch organizational meetings will be announced in the Courier as that information becomes available.

For additional information,

Fire ...

(Continued From Page One)

said "A defensive team was also deployed to the outside of the dwelling. An extensive salvage and overhaul operation was put in place, and the fire was extinguished completely."

Chief Phipps noted that the White Oak and Hwy. 519 fire departments were dispatched for mutual aid.

Also dispatched to the scene were West Liberty Police Department officers, who shut down Liberty Road for fire hydrant access, and Morgan County Ambulance Service personnel, who provided rehab care to firefighters.

Chief Phipps said that while the house was destroyed, firefighters' quick containment kept the blaze from spreading to any adjacent structures.

Officers of the department assessed the fire conditions and were in contact with West Liberty Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in case of fire

express his gratitude to everyone on scene - including the mutual aid departments - for their prompt response and hard work.

Agent ...

(Continued From Page One)

The community is invited to meet Nicolette and Bear.

Mount Carmel / Index Church Preschool Enrollment

Mount Carmel Christian School has joined with Index Community Church to start a preschool at our church facilities for the 2024-2025 school year. Community interest is being surveyed for the sixth grade and additional grade levels. Local certified teachers will provide hands-on instruction, grading and mentoring as well as utilizing biblical principles in the school curriculum.

Watch ...

(Continued From Page One)

The Courier that recent break-in and safety concerns prompted her and others to attend.

"It is apparent that we need

signs to those in attendance Sheriff Motley said last week that he would like to hold additional meetings in the other four magistrate districts if citizens express an interest in each program.

The sheriff thanked all who attended the Feb. 19 meeting

in starting a neighborhood watch program to contact the sheriff's office.

Any additional neighborhood watch organizational meetings will be announced in the Courier as that information becomes available.

For additional information,

COURIER SPORTS

Morgan County Boys' Basketball

Cougars stay unbeaten at home; Spencer and Griffith combine for 34

By David Patrick
Morgan County has found its offensive rhythm at the perfect time. Coach Reece Griffith's team scored 70-plus for a seventh consecutive game on its way to a convincing 80-58 win over Paintsville Tuesday night at Veterans Memorial Gymnasium.

The Cougars are a perfect 8-0 in games played on the home court this season, with five coming in the last three weeks. The team has won seven by double-figures, with Rowan (70-64) being the only team to play within single-digits.

The Cougars put up 20-plus in three of the game's four quarters, including 21 in the first. Eli Griffith, Logan Spencer, Asher Gamble and Logan Spencer each hit 3-point baskets in the eight-minute span. The home team added 14 points in the second period to lead 35-23 at the half.

The Cougar defense held firm in the third, limiting the

Tigers to only two field goals while scoring 24 of their own. Eli Griffith, Cam Adams and Asher Gamble each hit a 3-pointer while Logan Spencer drilled a pair. Morgan closed strong with a 21-point fourth, highlighted by four more 3's as Ody Dagan, Luke Schwab and Parker Truisty joined the party.

For the game, Morgan buried 15 3-pointers, with five coming from Eli Griffith, who finished with 17 points. He would add six rebounds and five assists. Spencer scored in three of the game's four quarters to post 17 points as well. Adams tallied five boards with Eli Griffith handing out four assists.

The Tigers had lost six straight games to open February before beating Huntington Expressions Prep on the 17th. But Morgan's huge third quarter dashed the hopes of back-to-back victories for the first time since winning five consecutive games in late December

East Ky. Table Tennis

Caleb Lemaster wins 2nd EKT Championship

By Mike Crase
EKT Meet 5 was held at West Liberty, KY on 2/09/24. The big news of the night was Caleb Lemaster regaining the EKT Championship in a match he took 4 games to 1. "Caleb played strong finishing offensive shots and had consistent defense. We all play in the league to be the EKT Champion and he earned it tonight. I wish him the best in his 2nd run as champ," said former 94x EKT Champion Byron Risher.

Perry Franklin wasn't able to compete at Meet 4, but rolled in a 3-0 record and 1st place, also picking up 90 power points as he won 9-0. This is a strong build for a shot at the EKT title in March. Perry defeated EKT Champ Caleb Lemaster in round robin play, as the title was not on the line in group play. Caleb finished second, going 2-1. Craig Sheehan, the Inter-County Champion, won over Dan Bell in G1 play to take third place.

Brad Johnson dominated Group 2 play, going 3-0 in match play and winning first place by defeating Dickie Williams who went 2-1 and finished 2nd. Brad also went 6-0 in games played. Cooper Daniel wins a tough match over Junior Champion Fletcher Hammond in G2 play, finishing in third place. Shout out to Dickie Williams for finishing in the top 3 of all groups he's competed in this year.

Group 3 had a large group of 7 players with a mix of juniors, beginners and intermediate league players, and they had some of the night's best matches! First off, we would like to welcome Nick and Jayden Porter to the club! We are so excited to have you on board! Scott Hammond's took home the biggest win of his career, going first in the G3 with a 6-0 record. Logan Bailey powered through a tough match and took second with a 5-1 record and winning over Ethan Smith, who took third with a 2-4 record.

Jayden Porter made an impressive first showing going 2-4 and taking fourth place.

We have a new recreational initiative, Play For Fun (PFF). If you don't want to play in the league, but enjoy playing the sport, learning the game, bring a friend and we will set you up! We can take 8 players per week, plus we provide the paddles and balls. First three sessions are free and the fourth is \$2.

Please message us on Facebook and let us know if you plan on being part of PFF. Doors open at 6 pm this Thursday and league play starts at 7 pm. New players and beginners are always welcome! Contact us at 606-794-2295. See you at the tables!

budsmen Program is looking for Volunteers!

Did you know 60% of nursing home residents never receive a visitor?

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program advocates for rights, dignity and independence for nursing home residents. The program's volunteers visit about 1,700 frail and elderly at least quarterly and advocate for quality care and work to resolve problems. Ombudsmen help provide a voice for those who otherwise would have none, serving those living in nursing homes, personal care homes, and family care homes.

For more information, contact your Long Term Care Ombudsman:

Amanda Hamilton
FIVCO Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
1616 Greenup Ave
Ashland, KY 41101
(606) 780-2258
ahamilton@tblaw.org

Volunteers sought for long term care ombudsman pgm.

The Legal Aid of the Bluegrass Long Term Care Om-

Rowan ...

(Continued From Page Five)

Gamble finished the period with a pair of free throws and a transition layup as Morgan took a 32-29 advantage to intermission.

Adams set the tone for the second half with a trey from the left corner just 30 seconds in. The Cougars scored just 12 in the period, but got a basket from Justice and a 3-pointer by Spencer. Free throws from Gatlin Griffith and Gamble made for a 44-38 lead heading to the fourth.

Rowan battled defensively as Wilburn hit five of six free throws. Morgan's offense made 3's of the second half, however Morgan wouldn't budge. Eli Griffith hit a tough turnaround in the lane with 4:08 remaining before hanging a 3 from deep to give Morgan a 9-point advantage. Justice made it a double-figure lead

with a rebound and putback with 2:30 left.

Gamble converted four clutch free-throws in a 30-second span to keep it a three-possession game with less than two minutes to play. Wilburn made one final push with consecutive 3's to trim it to three with 12 seconds remaining. But it was Justice—appropriately enough—to cap the scoring with a transition basket and one. Eli Griffith seized it with a steal to run out the clock as Morgan picked up the well-earned six-point win.

Justice scored in every quarter to finish with a team-high 21 points, while Logan Spencer and Gatlin Griffith had to apiece. Adams and Eli Griffith added eight and seven points, respectively.

Wilburn hit seven 3's to pace the Vikings with a game-high 28 while Dashaun Watson scored 17.

Adams ...

(Continued From Page Five)

Griffith and Logan Spencer each scoring 11.

Shooting was contagious in this one as all six players hit at least 54% from the field, with the team converting an incredible 61% (23-of-38), including 10-of-18 (56%) from the 3-point stripe. Gamble joined Adams with three 3-pointers with Gatlin Griffith knocked down a pair. Eli Griffith and Logan Spencer hit one apiece

The only blemish on this night came at the free-throw line with Morgan hitting a mere 8-of-15 (53%). Justice and Gatlin Griffith combined for 16 of the Cougars' 25 rebounds.

The home team was led by 22 points from Connor Thacker while Christian Large and Connor Sutton went for 19 and 16, respectively.

After a good start to the season, including win streaks of three and four games, the Rams have dropped four of their last six. On the flip side, the victory kept Morgan perfect in February with six straight wins.

Smith ...

(Continued From Page Five)

with eight points.

The Lady Cougars were respectable from the field (41%)

numbers. The team made only three 3-point baskets in 11 tries (27%).

Kyera Thornsbury led Pikeville with 19 points while Trinity Rowe scored 19. The visitors narrowly won the battle with 33-31.

SUE'S TAX SERVICE
2722 Hwy. 191 • Malone, Ky.

Office & Fax: (606) 743-7060
(606) 743-1265

Individual Tax Preparation

OFFICE HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to noon • Evening appointments available
"We look forward to serving you!"

Courier Advertising Info: Call Us At 606-743-3551 Today!!!

Morgan County Water District CUSTOMER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Morgan County Water District expects to file an application with the Kentucky Public Service Commission on or about February 21, 2024, seeking approval of a proposed adjustment to its water rates. The proposed rates shall not become effective until the Public Service Commission has issued an order approving these rates.

3/4 inch x 5/8 inch Meter	Current Monthly Rates	Proposed Monthly Rates	Differences	
			Dollar	Percentage
First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 31.89 Min Bill	\$ 44.89 Min Bill	\$ 13.10	41%
Next 7,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01186 per Gallon	\$ 0.01686 per Gallon	\$ 0.00492	41%
Next 8,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01100 per Gallon	\$ 0.01547 per Gallon	\$ 0.00447	41%
Next 9,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01015 per Gallon	\$ 0.01427 per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	41%
Over 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929 per Gallon	\$ 0.01306 per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
1-inch Meter				
First 5,000 Gallons	\$ 87.62 Min Bill	\$ 95.37 Min Bill	\$ 27.75	41%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01100 per Gallon	\$ 0.01547 per Gallon	\$ 0.00447	41%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01015 per Gallon	\$ 0.01427 per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	41%
Over 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929 per Gallon	\$ 0.01306 per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
2-inch Meter				
First 15,000 Gallons	\$ 171.93 Min Bill	\$ 242.45 Min Bill	\$ 70.52	41%
Over 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929 per Gallon	\$ 0.01306 per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
6-inch Meter				
First 100,000 Gallons	\$ 983.03 Min Bill	\$ 1,357.90 Min Bill	\$ 394.87	41%
Over 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929 per Gallon	\$ 0.01306 per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
4-inch Meter Wholesale				
	\$ 0.00452 per Gallon	\$ 0.00637 per Gallon	\$ 0.00185	41%

If the Public Service Commission approves the proposed rates, then the average customer bill impact will be as shown in the table below

	Current and Proposed Customer Bills			
	Average Monthly Usage	Current Monthly Rates	Current Monthly Rates	Differences
3/4-inch x 5/8-inch Meter	3,020	\$ 43.99	\$ 62.00	\$ 18.01 41%
1-inch Meter	4,281	\$ 71.81	\$ 101.26	\$ 29.45 41%

home team added 14 points in the second period to lead 35-33 at the half.

The Cougar defense held firm in the third, limiting the

home team to a 14-point second quarter. Morgan's huge third quarter dashed the hopes of back-to-back victories for the first time since winning five consecutive games in late December.

Rowan ...

(Continued From Page Five)

Gamble finished the period with a pair of free throws and a transition layup as Morgan took a 32-28 advantage to intermission.

Adams set the tone for the second half with a tray from the left corner just 30 seconds in. The Cougars scored just 12 in the period, but got a basket from Justice and a 3-pointer by Spencer. Free throws from Gallin Griffith and Gamble made for a 44-38 lead heading to the fourth.

Rowan battled fiercely as Wilburn hit five of his nine made 3's of the second half, however Morgan wouldn't budge. Eli Griffith hit a tough turnaround in the lane with 4:08 remaining before banging a 3 from deep to give Morgan a 9-point advantage. Justice made it a double-figure lead

with a rebound and putback with 2:30 left.

Gamble converted four clutch free-throw in a 30-second span to keep it a three-possession game with less than two minutes to play. Wilburn made one final push with consecutive 3's in trip II to three with 12 seconds remaining. But it was Justice—appropriately enough—to cap the scoring with a transition basket and one. Eli Griffith sealed it with a steal to rim out the clock as Morgan picked up the well-earned six-point win.

Justice scored in every quarter to finish with a team-high 21 points while Logan Spencer and Gallin Griffith had 15 apiece. Adams and Eli Griffith added eight and seven points, respectively.

Wilburn hit seven 3's to pace the Vikings with a game-high 28 while Dashawn Watson scored 17.

going 2-1. Craig Sheehan, the Inter-County Champion, won over Dan Bell in (G) play to take third place.

record. Logan Bailey powered through a tough match and took second with a 5-1 record and winning over Ethan Smith, who took third with a 2-4 record.

for long term care ombudsman pgm.

The Legal Aid of the Bluegrass Long Term Care Om-

Ashland, KY, 41101 (606) 780-2258 alahamilton@lablaw.org

Courier Advertising Info: Call Us At 606-743-3551 Today!!!

Morgan County Water District CUSTOMER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Morgan County Water District expects to file an application with the Kentucky Public Service Commission on or about February 21, 2024, seeking approval of a proposed adjustment to its water rates. The proposed rates shall not become effective until the Public Service Commission has issued an order approving these rates.

34-inch x 5/8-inch Meter	Current Monthly Rates		Proposed Monthly Rates		Differences	
	Dollar	Percentage	Dollar	Percentage	Dollar	Percentage
Final 2,000 Gallons	\$ 11.89	Min. Bil	\$ 44.99	Min. Bil	\$ 13.10	41%
Next 3,000 Gallons	\$ 0.0185	per Gallon	\$ 0.0166	per Gallon	\$ 0.0082	41%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01100	per Gallon	\$ 0.01547	per Gallon	\$ 0.00447	41%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01015	per Gallon	\$ 0.01427	per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	41%
Over 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
1-inch Meter						
Final 5,000 Gallons	\$ 67.62	Min. Bil	\$ 95.37	Min. Bil	\$ 27.75	41%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01100	per Gallon	\$ 0.01547	per Gallon	\$ 0.00447	41%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01015	per Gallon	\$ 0.01427	per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	41%
Over 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
2-inch Meter						
Final 15,000 Gallons	\$ 171.93	Min. Bil	\$ 242.45	Min. Bil	\$ 70.52	41%
Over 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
6-inch Meter						
Final 100,000 Gallons	\$ 963.03	Min. Bil	\$ 1,357.90	Min. Bil	\$ 394.87	41%
Over 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00629	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
4-inch Meter Wholesale						
	\$ 0.00452	per Gallon	\$ 0.00637	per Gallon	\$ 0.00185	41%

If the Public Service Commission approves the proposed rates, then the average customer bill impact bill for each meter class will be as shown in the table below

Current and Proposed Customer Bills					
34-inch x 5/8-inch Meter	Average Monthly Usage	Current Monthly Rates	Current Monthly Rates	Differences	
				Dollar	Percentage
	3,020	\$ 43.99	\$ 62.00	\$ 18.01	41%
1-inch Meter	5,381	\$ 71.81	\$ 101.26	\$ 29.45	41%
2-inch Meter	132,045	\$ 1,259.28	\$ 1,771.06	\$ 511.78	41%
6-inch Meter	94,726	\$ 914.03	\$ 1,289.02	\$ 374.99	41%
4-inch Meter Wholesale	523,333	\$ 2,365.47	\$ 3,333.63	\$ 968.16	41%

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Morgan County Water District. However, the Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from these proposed rates. Such action may result in rates for consumers other than the rates shown in this notice. Morgan County Water District has available for inspection at its office the application which it submitted to the Public Service Commission. A person may examine this application at the District's office located at 1009 Highway 172,

West Liberty, KY, 41472. You may contact the office at (606) 743-1204. A person may also examine the application at the Public Service Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Public Service Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission through its website or by mail to Public Service Commission, PO Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40602. You may contact the Public Service Commission at 502-564-3940. A person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, PO Box 615, Frankfort, KY, 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Public Service Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this notice, the Public Service Commission may take final action on the application.

Adams ...

(Continued From Page Five)

Griffith and Logan Spencer each scoring 11.

Shooting was contagious in this one as all six players hit at least 54% from the field, with the team covering an incredible 61% (33-of-54), including 10-of-18 (56%) from the 3-point stripe. Gamble joined Adams with three 3-pointers with Gallin Griffith knocked down a pair. Eli Griffith and Logan Spencer hit one apiece.

The only blemish on this night came at the free-throw line with Morgan hitting a mere 8-of-15 (53%). Justice and Gallin Griffith combined for 16 of the Cougars' 25 rebounds.

The home team was led by 22 points from Connor Thacker while Christian Large and Connor Sutton went for 19 and 16, respectively.

After a good start to the season, including win streaks of three and four games, the Rams have dropped four of their last six. On the flip side, the victory kept Morgan perfect in February with six straight wins.

Smith ...

(Continued From Page Five)

with eight points. The Lady Cougars were respectable from the field (41%) and solid at the free-throw line (77%, 20-of-26), highlighted by Smith's aforementioned

numbers. The team made only three 3-point baskets in 11 tries (27%).

Kyera Thornsbury led Pikeville with 19 points while Trinity Rowe scored 17. The visitors narrowly won the battle on the boards, 24-23.

Pikeville has won five of its last six games while Morgan lost for a fourth straight time.

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

It is the American soldier,
not the preacher,
who has given us freedom
of religion.
It is the American soldier,
not the reporter,
who has given us freedom
of the press.
It is the American soldier,
not the poet,
who has given us freedom
of speech.
It is the American soldier,

not the campus organizer,
who has given us
freedom to assemble.
It is the American soldier,
not the lawyer,
who has given us the right to
a fair trial.
It is the American soldier,
not the politician,
who has given us
the right to vote.
It is the American soldier,
who salutes the flag,
whose coffin is draped by
the flag.

**Don't Forget To
Renew Your
Subscription!!!**

ARE YOU COVERED?
ALL INSURANCE SERVICES



We Have **MANY** Companies To Quote Your Insurance With

DSON
Insurance Agency, Inc.
606-743-4472
facebook

The Licking Valley Courier

(USPS 312-040)

West Liberty, Kentucky 41472

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Advertising Opportunity

Your Advertising Message and Logo can go here where it is certain to be seen and read!



Call 743-3551 Today - Ask For Rick

Vol. 113 - No. 52 SPEAKING OF AND FOR MORGAN, THE BLUEGRASS COUNTY OF THE MOUNTAINS **75c** Per Copy 533.00 Year In County 534.00 Year In Kentucky 538.00 Year Outside Kentucky

GADD MotorMeals
...
Fri., March 1 Blackwater Fire Dept. Time: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Hometown Spring Craft Fair slated for Sat., March 2

The annual Hometown Spring Craft Fair will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at the Morgan County Wellness Center on Route 7.

Just in time for Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day shopping, over 50 local vendors will be offering the following items:

- Candies and jellies.
- Fashion and jewelry.
- Crochet and knitted items.
- Quilts and quilted items.
- Folk art paintings and gourds.
- Primitive/barn wood items.
- Baked goods.
- Wreaths.

Water District GM Seeks To Clarify Rate Increase Proposal

Elam Addresses Customers In Feb. 23 Facebook Posting Following Publication Of Last Week's Paper

EDITOR'S NOTE
Morgan County Water District (MCWD) General Manager Shannon Elam recently responded via Facebook to public criticism of MCWD's application to the Kentucky Public Service Commission for a proposed 41 percent water rate increase that was reported in the Feb. 22 edition of the Courier.

In the opening paragraph of his Feb. 23 posting on the Morgan County Water District Facebook page, Mr. Elam cited "confusion," "lack of a detailed explanation" and "miscommunication" following the publication of last week's paper.

We would like to state for readers' clarification that the information in our Feb. 22 report regarding the proposed rate increase was provided to the Courier by Mr. Elam - as per a Feb. 19 interview, as well as a legal advertisement that he submitted for publication on

that date.

The legal advertisement - published in its entirety last week - appears in the Courier again this week on page three. In addition to details of the proposed water rate increase, the ad outlines the process citizens should follow to file a request for intervention with the Public Service Commission. All necessary contact information is included.

As noted in the Feb. 22 report, citizens can inspect the rate increase application to the Public Service Commission in the MCWD Office located in 1009 Hwy. 172 (former Rifle Cool building) in West Liberty, or contact water district officials at 743-1204.

The next regular meeting of the MCWD board will be 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 11, at the address listed in the preceding paragraph.

Thank you, as always, for reading the Courier.
-Miranda M. Cantrell, Editor
The Licking Valley Courier

SHANNON ELAM'S REMARKS

The following remarks from Morgan County Water District General Manager Shannon Elam were posted to the Morgan County Water District Facebook page on Friday, Feb. 23, following the publication of last week's Courier.

Clarification of Customer Rate Case Notice

Firstly, I want to sincerely apologize for the confusion and lack of a detailed explanation about the proposed rate increase in the local newspaper. Over the past few days, we have received some expected pushback on the rate increase, but also some unexpected backlash from our customers, neighbors, friends, and family. I am writing this post to provide clarification and to clear up the miscommunication by providing a brief

See **RATES**, Page 3

Fiscal court discusses efforts to update the county's road system

Members increase magistrates, coroner's salaries 3.4% following Consumer Price Index guidance; citizen makes complaint about ATVs on roadway

By Miranda M. Cantrell

The Morgan County Fiscal Court its regular Feb. 22 meeting held an extensive discussion regarding the need to update the county's road system.

Road System Discussion

Judge Executive Jim Gazay presented court members with an extensive list of roads compiled by employee Linda Bradley of roads that previous administrations had voted to take into the county road system.

Bradley informed the court that the adoption process had never been completed for the roads in question.

"We're just going to have to take some time and correct the ones that haven't been [adopted]," Bradley said. "They were voted on to be adopted, but some of them have not been put in the system. Or they are on the Gateway Area Development District map, but not the state map."

"Some of the roads were also already in the system, and

now they are out of the system for some reason. We don't know why that happened. But we will work on it and try to get it up to date."

Judge Gazay further explained the road adoption process.

"[The roads] got voted on here, but there's a process you've got to go through," Gazay said. "You've got to go through Gateway Area Development District, and then they put it in the state system. Then 911 has to put it on the 911 map. For some reason what was voted on got overlooked."

Judge Gazay also noted that Bradley had not located any meeting minutes to indicate that the court had approved the removal of those roads from the system.

"Linda has been working on trying to compile all this, but it's going to take an effort to get it fixed," Gazay said, before noting that magistrates should contact Bradley to add

See **COURT**, Page 5

Rates ...

(Continued From Page One)

District's rate increase history. PSC cases, our regulations, and current projects. I will label each paragraph with the specific topic that will be discussed to help you better navigate this post.

Who We Are

While the Fiscal Court, Judge Executive and the Water District are closely involved, we are two separate entities. The Judge Executive appoints commissioners with the approval of the fiscal court. The Water District provides its own budget and receives no funding from the county. Our revenue is strictly based on the water rates and non-water fees including late charges, cut-off charges and service fees. Our board members are all volunteers, not paid commissioners, as they have refused the offer.

A Brief Rate History For MCWD

MCWD formed in 1992 and there is no record showing any rate increases made for the company until 2016. The rate increases that were made from 1992-2016 were all pass-through rates that were needed due to the increase in the cost of purchased water and when USDA bonds were issued. These increases did not help the company's daily expenses, labor costs or depreciation. Back in 2016, MCWD proposed a rate increase for 15% and when the PSC told us it was recommended to make the increase 25%, we denied the extra 10% at the time. A year later, we realized that we needed the extra 10% but were then denied by the PSC. The PSC then made it a requirement that we take the rate that they recommend us from here forward. In 2019, our water loss was 60% and the PSC issued us to appear before them to discuss our financial situation and our water loss. After this discussion, we were ordered to begin submitting an adjusted rate case every three to four years and to file a rate case within one year of the final order. By the end of 2020 we were able to file our rate case and the PSC ordered that we have a surcharge of \$5.87 for 48 months for our water loss.

2024 Rate Case

This year we are filing a rate case that will be able to help us, as a company, begin to make the needed changes to give you the best quality water. We were able to work with a third party to help us come up with a rate increase that will allow us to accomplish this goal. Since 99% of our customers have a 3/4 inch meter, I would like to provide a mathematical breakdown of how this rate increase will affect the first 2,000 gallons used. Currently the rate is \$31.89 for 2,000 gallons of water. Breaking this down you are paying \$0.01 for every gallon of water.

$31.89/2000 = 0.015945$

The proposed rate is \$44.99 for 2,000 gallons of water. Breaking this down you are paying \$0.02 for every gallon of water.

$44.99/2000 = 0.022495$

This is a \$13 difference for the minimum bill, but it is just over half a cent more per gallon.

$0.022495 - 0.015945 = 0.00655$

Issues To Address

We have heard some backlash about this new increase going toward paying for new trucks, our new building and that our employees and commissioners are getting dis-

more convenient for the public, to prevent theft and to allow our employees to have enough space to be able to work more efficiently. Our company vehicles are leased through Fleet because we have found it to be less expensive and prevents us from spending extra on maintenance costs. All employees and commissioners are subject to the same rate and fees as everyone else in the public, as we have to follow the statutes of our tariff for every customer.

With your continued service and the hard work of our employees we have been able to decrease our water loss and have been able to drop the surcharge from your bills. With this rate increase, we will be able to continue our hard work and have the funds needed to complete our goal of making sure you have clean, fresh water every day.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this post and if you have any further questions and would like to talk with me about them, please do not hesitate to call the office and schedule an appointment. Please remember that the current rate case is still in the process, no numbers are definite, and the rate is subject to change. Below is contact information that could be helpful for you and our current and past cases with the PSC so you can see how this process works and better understand where your money is going.

Shannon Elam
General Manager

- Office number: 606-743-1204
- PSC number: 1-800-772-4636
- PSC website: <http://psc.ky.gov>

Past Cases

- 2016-00068
- 2019-00041
- 2020-00386
- 2021-00206

- Current Rate Case
- 2024-00010

Minutes ...

(Continued From Page One)

order list. (Sheriff's office vehicle operation and maintenance has been added to the standing order list.) Passed with a motion by Eric Pelfrey and a second by Brandon Evans.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval to adopt on second reading Budget Amendment #8 in the amount of \$716,303.56. Passed with a motion by Tommy Fannin and a second by Donnie Keeton.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval of Emergency Budget Amendment #9 in the amount of \$12,207.88. (Sheriff's additional excess fees.) Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Tommy Fannin.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Transfer #10 in the amount of \$152,219.97. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Tommy Fannin.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Ratification of prior period expenditures for WEX and Elan Financial services. Passed with a motion by Eric Pelfrey and a second by Brandon Evans.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval to accept and expend the Search and Rescue grant funds as presented. (The Morgan County Rescue Squad has been a Kentucky Search and

Rescue Grant. An invoice in the amount of \$1,067.88 was the proposed purchase of equipment was presented.) Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Tommy Fannin.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval to increase the salaries of the Morgan County magistrates and coroner by the current Consumer Price Index rate of 3.4%. (Communication with the Office of the Governor indicates that the CPI had increased and could be applied to the salaries of elected officials including magistrates and coroners.) Passed with a motion by Tommy Fannin and a second by Donnie Keeton.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval to pay Jailer James Basterling and Magistrates Leroy Phipps and Donnie Keeton training incentive pay of \$5,152.68 each. (They have completed the required 40 hours of training for 2024.) Passed with a motion by Leroy Phipps and a second by Tommy Fannin.

Vote - Yes: Brandon Evans, Tommy Fannin, Jim Gazay and Eric Pelfrey. Abstain: Donnie Keeton and Leroy Phipps.

• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval to pay Magistrates Eric Pelfrey and Tommy Fannin their training incentive pay of \$2,576.34 for 2024. Passed with a motion by Donnie Keeton and a second by Leroy Phipps.

Vote - Yes: Brandon Evans, Jim Gazay, Donnie Keeton and

Leroy Phipps, Abstain: Tommy Fannin and Eric Pelfrey.

• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval pay Hutch Ford/Lincoln \$49,239 for the 3/4 ton pickup truck following the court's acceptance of the dealership's bid in January. Passed with a motion by Eric Pelfrey and a second by Donnie Keeton.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval to pay Worldwide Equipment \$179,630 for a 2024 Kenworth T480 tandem truck. (The purchase of this truck was previously approved by court. The road department picked up the truck on Feb. 22.) Passed with a motion by Tommy Fannin and seconded by Donnie Keeton.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval to pay ER assist \$22,320.80 for Category Z administrative work on FEMA DR-4711 (flooding in 2023). Passed with a motion by Tommy Fannin and a second by Donnie Keeton.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval to pay Walker Construction \$143,535.50 for paving done on White's Branch. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Donnie Keeton.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Ratification of paid vendor claims. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Eric Pelfrey.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Approval of unpaid vendor

HUGE YARI SALI

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

SAURDAY MARCH 2

FARM HOUSE KIDS CLOTHE LOTS MORE.

Glenn Ave. 605

claims. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Tommy Fannin.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** - Motion to adjourn the meeting. Passed with a motion by Pelfrey and a second by don Evans.

Vote - Unanimous yes.
Additional Information
For additional information regarding Morgan County Court activities, call Executive Jim Gazay at 3897 or visit his office at county government building 450 Prestonsburg St.

Morgan County Water District CUSTOMER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Morgan County Water District expects to file an application with the Kentucky Public Service Commission on or about February 21, 2024, seeking approval of a proposed adjustment to its water rates. The proposed rates shall not become effective until the Public Service Commission has issued an order approving these rates.

Meter Class	Current Monthly Rates	Proposed Monthly Rates	Differences	
			Dollar	Percentage
3/4-inch x 5/8-inch Meter				
First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 31.89 Min Bill	\$ 44.99 Min Bill	\$ 13.10	41%
Next 3,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01186 per Gallon	\$ 0.01668 per Gallon	\$ 0.00482	41%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01100 per Gallon	\$ 0.01547 per Gallon	\$ 0.00447	41%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01015 per Gallon	\$ 0.01427 per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	41%
Over 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929 per Gallon	\$ 0.01306 per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
1-inch Meter				
First 5,000 Gallons	\$ 67.62 Min Bill	\$ 95.37 Min Bill	\$ 27.75	41%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01100 per Gallon	\$ 0.01547 per Gallon	\$ 0.00447	41%
Next 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01015 per Gallon	\$ 0.01427 per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	41%
Over 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929 per Gallon	\$ 0.01306 per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
2-inch Meter				
First 15,000 Gallons	\$ 171.93 Min Bill	\$ 242.45 Min Bill	\$ 70.52	41%
Over 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929 per Gallon	\$ 0.01306 per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
6-inch Meter				
First 100,000 Gallons	\$ 963.03 Min Bill	\$ 1,357.90 Min Bill	\$ 394.87	41%
Over 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929 per Gallon	\$ 0.01306 per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
4-inch Meter Wholesale				
	\$ 0.00452 per Gallon	\$ 0.00637 per Gallon	\$ 0.00185	41%

If the Public Service Commission approves the proposed rates, then the average customer bill impact bill of each meter class will be as shown in the table below

Meter Class	Average Monthly Usage	Current Monthly Rates	Current Monthly Rates	Differences	
				Dollar	Percentage
3/4-inch x 5/8-inch Meter	3,020	\$ 43.99	\$ 62.00	\$ 18.01	41%
1-inch Meter	5,381	\$ 71.81	\$ 101.26	\$ 29.45	41%

0% but were then denied by the PSC. The PSC then made it a requirement that we take the rate that they recommend from here forward. In 2019, our water loss was 60% and the PSC issued us to appear before them to discuss our financial situation and our water loss. After this discussion, we were ordered to begin submitting an adjusted rate case every three to four years and to file a rate case within one year of the final order. By the end of 2020 we were able to file our rate case and the PSC ordered that we have a surcharge of \$5.87 for 48 months for our water loss.

2024 Rate Case

This year we are filing a rate case that will be able to help us, as a company, begin to make the needed changes to give you the best quality water. We were able to work with a third party to help us come up with a rate increase that will allow us to accomplish this goal. Since 99% of our customers have a 3/4 inch meter, I would like to provide a mathematical breakdown of how this rate increase will affect the first 2,000 gallons used.

Currently the rate is \$31.89 for 2,000 gallons of water. Breaking this down you are paying \$0.01 for every gallon of water.

$$31.89/2000 = 0.015945$$

The proposed rate is \$44.99 for 2,000 gallons of water. Breaking this down you are paying \$0.02 for every gallon of water.

$$44.99/2000 = 0.022495$$

This is a \$13 difference for the minimum bill, but it is just over half a cent more per gallon.

$$0.022495 - 0.015945 = 0.00655$$

Issues To Address

We have heard some backlash about this new increase going toward paying for new trucks, our new building and that our employees and commissioners are getting discounts on water. I would like to address these issues to provide you with clarification on how this money is being allocated. Our new building is going to be built fully with grant money, not from our revenue accounts (your payments). We are relocating to be able to be

ky.gov

Past Cases

- 2016-00068
- 2019-00041
- 2020-00386
- 2021-00206

Current Rate Case

- 2024-00010

Drive ...

(Continued From Page One)

pitals will need a blood transfusion for everything from traumas to premature births, surgeries, organ transplants, diseases such as cancer and sickle cell diseases, and so much more. Kentucky Blood Center, through the generous donation of blood from donors, provides lifesaving blood products to more than 70 hospitals in Kentucky.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health, show a photo I.D. and meet additional requirements. Sixteen-year-old donors must have a signed parental permission slip, which can be found at kybloodcenter.org.

Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. To schedule a donation, visit kybloodcenter.org or call 800.775.2522.

About Kentucky Blood Center

Celebrating 55 years of saving lives in Kentucky, KBC is the largest independent, full-service, nonprofit blood center in Kentucky. Licensed by the FDA, KBC's sole purpose is to collect, process and distribute blood for patients in Kentucky. KBC provides services in 90 Kentucky counties and has donor centers in Lexington, Louisville, Frankfort, Pikeville, Somerset and the Tri-County area (Corbin).

Subscribe Today!

Morgan County Water District CUSTOMER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Morgan County Water District expects to file an application with the Kentucky Public Service Commission on or about February 21, 2024, seeking approval of a proposed adjustment to its water rates. The proposed rates shall not become effective until the Public Service Commission has issued an order approving these rates.

3/4-inch x 5/8-inch Meter	Current Monthly Rates		Proposed Monthly Rates		Differences	
	Dollar	Percentage	Dollar	Percentage	Dollar	Percentage
First: 2,000 Gallons	\$ 31.89	Min. Bill	\$ 44.99	Min. Bill	\$ 13.10	41%
Next: 3,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01186	per Gallon	\$ 0.01668	per Gallon	\$ 0.00482	41%
Next: 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01100	per Gallon	\$ 0.01547	per Gallon	\$ 0.00447	41%
Next: 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01015	per Gallon	\$ 0.01427	per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	41%
Over: 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
1-inch Meter						
First: 5,000 Gallons	\$ 67.62	Min. Bill	\$ 95.37	Min. Bill	\$ 27.75	41%
Next: 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01100	per Gallon	\$ 0.01547	per Gallon	\$ 0.00447	41%
Next: 5,000 Gallons	\$ 0.01015	per Gallon	\$ 0.01427	per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	41%
Over: 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
2-inch Meter						
First: 15,000 Gallons	\$ 171.93	Min. Bill	\$ 242.45	Min. Bill	\$ 70.52	41%
Over: 15,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
6-inch Meter						
First: 100,000 Gallons	\$ 963.03	Min. Bill	\$ 1,357.90	Min. Bill	\$ 394.87	41%
Over: 100,000 Gallons	\$ 0.00929	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	41%
4-inch Meter Wholesale						
	\$ 0.00452	per Gallon	\$ 0.00637	per Gallon	\$ 0.00185	41%

If the Public Service Commission approves the proposed rates, then the average customer bill impact for each meter class will be as shown in the table below

Current and Proposed Customer Bills	Average Monthly Usage	Current Monthly Rates	Current Monthly Rates	Differences	
				Dollar	Percentage
3/4-inch x 5/8-inch Meter	3,020	\$ 43.99	\$ 62.00	\$ 18.01	41%
1-inch Meter	5,381	\$ 71.81	\$ 101.26	\$ 29.45	41%
2-inch Meter	132,045	\$ 1,259.28	\$ 1,771.06	\$ 511.78	41%
6-inch Meter	94,726	\$ 914.03	\$ 1,289.02	\$ 374.99	41%
4-inch Meter Wholesale	523,333	\$ 2,365.47	\$ 3,333.63	\$ 968.16	41%

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Morgan County Water District. However, the Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from these proposed rates. Such action may result in rates for consumers other than the rates shown in this notice. Morgan County Water District has available for inspection at its office the application which it submitted to the Public Service Commission. A person may examine this application at the District's office located at 1009 Highway 17,

West Liberty, KY, 41472. You may contact the office at (606) 743-1204. A person may also examine the application at the Public Service Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Public Service Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission through its website or by mail to Public Service Commission, PO Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40602. You may contact the Public Service Commission at 502-564-3940. A person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, PO Box 615, Frankfort, KY, 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Public Service Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this notice, the Public Service Commission may take final action on the application.

Mount Carmel / Index Church Preschool Enrollment

Mount Carmel Christian School has joined with Index Community Church to start a preschool at our church facilities for the 2024-2025 school year. Community interest is being surveyed for the sixth grade and additional grade levels. Local certified teachers will provide hands-on instruction, grading and mentoring as well as utilizing biblical principles in the school curriculum.

If you wish to enroll your child or gather more information contact Mount Carmel at 772-828-9298 or 606-666-6008 or 858-582-9346.

ARE YOU COVERED?
ALL POLICIES REVIEWED



We Have MANY Companies To Quote Your Insurance With

ISON
Insurance Agency, Inc.
806-743-4472
facebook

The Licking Valley Courier

(USPS 312-040)

West Liberty, Kentucky 41472

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Advertising Opportunity
Your Advertising Message and Logo can go here where it is certain to be seen and read!



Call 743-3551 Today - Ask For Rick

Vol. 114 - No. 1 SPEAKING OF AND FOR MORGAN, THE BLUEGRASS COUNTY OF THE MOUNTAINS

75¢ Per Copy

\$33.00 Year In County
\$78.00 Year In Kentucky
\$58.00 Year Outside Kentucky

Congratulations Cougars And Lady Cougars!!!



Morgan County Cougars - 2024 62nd District Champions
Photo by William LeMaster

62nd District Boys' Basketball Tournament

Eli Griffith scores 19 as Cougars win back-to-back district titles

Asher Gamble seals victory with four FT's

By David Patrick because that was an extremely of the first quarter being the largest of the game. Morgan



Morgan County Lady Cougars - 2024 62nd District Champions
Photo by Chris Smith

62nd District Girls' Basketball Tournament

Lady Cougars go back-to-back with championship victory over Elliott Co.

By David Patrick with a combined 49 points and 18 boards. Brangers said. "We've battled a lot of adversity this season with how tough our schedule is and the amount of injuries we've had. But they showed

Emma Clinger put up 14 points to lead a balanced scoring attack as the Lady Cougars led 14-11 after one quarter and 26-20 at intermission thanks to 10

stable cell diseases, and so much more. Kentucky Blood Center, through the generous donation of blood from donors, provides life-saving blood products to more than 70 hospitals in Kentucky.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health, show a photo ID, and meet additional requirements. Sixteen-year-old donors must have a signed parental permission slip, which can be found at kybloodcenter.org.

Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. To schedule a donation, visit kybloodcenter.org or call 800.775.2522.

About Kentucky Blood Center

Celebrating 35 years of saving lives in Kentucky, KBC is the largest independent, full-service, nonprofit blood center in Kentucky. Licensed by the FDA, KBC's sole purpose is to collect, process and distribute blood for patients in Kentucky. KBC provides services in 90 Kentucky counties and has donor centers in Lexington, Louisville, Frankfort, Pikeville, Somerset and the Tri-County area (Covington).



/ Index Church Enrollment

ian School has joined Church to start a pre-facilities for the 2024-annuity interest is be-th grade and additional ruffed teachers will pro-ion, grading and men-ing biblical principles in ur child or gather more unt Carnival at 772-828- or 858-582-9346.

Meter	5,000 Gallons	5,000 Gallons	5,000 Gallons	5,000 Gallons	5,000 Gallons	5,000 Gallons	5,000 Gallons	5,000 Gallons
Next	\$ 0.01100	per Gallon	\$ 0.01547	per Gallon	\$ 0.00447	per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	per Gallon
Next	\$ 0.01015	per Gallon	\$ 0.01427	per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	per Gallon
Over	\$ 0.00929	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	per Gallon
1-inch Meter								
First	\$ 67.62	Min Bill	\$ 95.57	Min Bill	\$ 27.75	Min Bill	\$ 27.75	Min Bill
Next	\$ 0.01100	per Gallon	\$ 0.01547	per Gallon	\$ 0.00447	per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	per Gallon
Over	\$ 0.01015	per Gallon	\$ 0.01427	per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	per Gallon	\$ 0.00412	per Gallon
2-inch Meter								
First	\$ 171.99	Min Bill	\$ 242.45	Min Bill	\$ 70.52	Min Bill	\$ 70.52	Min Bill
Next	\$ 0.00929	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	per Gallon
Over	\$ 0.00844	per Gallon	\$ 0.01221	per Gallon	\$ 0.00352	per Gallon	\$ 0.00352	per Gallon
3-inch Meter								
First	\$ 963.03	Min Bill	\$ 1,357.90	Min Bill	\$ 394.87	Min Bill	\$ 394.87	Min Bill
Next	\$ 0.00929	per Gallon	\$ 0.01306	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	per Gallon	\$ 0.00377	per Gallon
Over	\$ 0.00844	per Gallon	\$ 0.01221	per Gallon	\$ 0.00352	per Gallon	\$ 0.00352	per Gallon
4-inch Meter Wholesale	\$ 0.00452	per Gallon	\$ 0.00637	per Gallon	\$ 0.00185	per Gallon	\$ 0.00185	per Gallon

If the Public Service Commission approves the proposed rates, then the average customer bill impact bill for each meter class will be as shown in the table below

Current and Proposed Customer Bills	Current Monthly Rates		Proposed Monthly Rates		Differences	
	Usage	Rate	Usage	Rate	Dollar	Percentage
3/4-inch x 5/8-inch Meter	3,020	\$ 43.99	3,020	\$ 62.00	\$ 18.01	41%
1-inch Meter	5,381	\$ 71.81	5,381	\$ 101.26	\$ 29.45	41%
2-inch Meter	132,045	\$ 1,259.28	132,045	\$ 1,771.06	\$ 511.78	41%
6-inch Meter	94,726	\$ 914.03	94,726	\$ 1,289.02	\$ 374.99	41%
4-inch Meter Wholesale	523,333	\$ 2,365.47	523,333	\$ 3,333.63	\$ 968.16	41%

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Morgan County Water District. However, the Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from these proposed rates. Such action may result in rates for consumers other than the rates shown in this notice. Morgan County Water District has available for inspection at its office the application which it submitted to the Public Service Commission. A person may examine this application at the District's office located at 1009 Highway 172.

West Liberty, KY 41472. You may contact the office at (606) 743-1204. A person may also examine the application at the Public Service Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Public Service Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission through its website or by mail to Public Service Commission, PO Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40602. You may contact the Public Service Commission at 502-564-3940. A person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, PO Box 615, Frankfort, KY, 40602, establishing the grounds for the request, including the status and interest of the party. If the Public Service Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of this notice, the Public Service Commission may take final action on the application.

ARE YOU COVERED?
ALL INSURANCE SERVICES



We Have **MANY** Companies To Quote Your Insurance With

ISON
Insurance Agency, Inc.
606-743-4472

Facebook

The Licking Valley Courier

(USPS 312-040)

West Liberty, Kentucky 41472

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Advertising Opportunity

Your Advertising Message and Logo can go here where it is certain to be seen and read!



Call 743-3551 Today - Ask For Rick

Vol. 114 - No. 2 SPEAKING OF AND FOR MORGAN, THE BLUEGRASS COUNTY OF THE MOUNTAINS **75¢** Per Copy \$31.00 Year In County \$38.00 Year In Kentucky \$38.00 Year Outside Kentucky

GADD MotorMeals

Fri., March 15:
Blackwater Fire Dept.
Time: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Pictured left to right are Ethan, Kelsi, Stacy and Brandon Blair, Amy Wright, Paula Faulkner, Kara Elam, Joshua Skidmore, Robert Nichols, Amanda Nichols, Jessica Minix, George Perkins, Terri Taylor, Benjamin Connors and Mary Cantrell.

Ceremony memorializes those lost to drug overdose

On Wednesday, March 6, New Vision Recovery Center hosted a black balloon ceremony in memory of those lost to drug overdose.

CEO Amanda Paek Nichols made the following remarks at the ceremony, which was held outside the Index Community Center.

"Today, we gather to shed light on the sobering issue of black balloon overdose."
The purpose of black bal...



Water District board hears comments on rate increase proposal

Magistrates Pelfrey and Fannin, Sheriff Motley, other concerned citizens attend; Ky. Rural Water Association representative answers questions

EDITOR'S NOTE
The following is a partial account of the Morgan County Water District board meeting conducted on the afternoon of Monday, March 11. Due to time and space constraints, we have decided to report this event in two installments. The second half of the story will appear in the March 21 edition of the Courier.

Part two will include additional comments from Kentucky Rural Water Association Lead Contractor Bob Miller and Magistrate Eric Pelfrey—both prominent figures in this week's report—as well as Sheriff Greg Motley and others.

We apologize for the delay and thank you, as always, for reading the Courier.

By Miranda M. Cantrell
Morgan County Water District (MCWD) board members heard comments and concerns regarding a proposed 41 percent water rate increase during their regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 11, at their entity's office on Hwy. 172.

MCWD Board Chair Brian Wells called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with Secretary/Treasurer Zachary Engle, and Commissioners Steve Clark and Raina Helton in attendance.

The board's third commissioner, Steve Gunnell, arrived at 6:02 p.m. following a late meeting in Lewis County.

MCWD General Manager Shannon Elam and water district employees were on hand for the public comment segment of the meeting.

Approximately 35 to 40 people attended the gathering, including Magistrates Eric Pelfrey and Tommy Fannin, Sheriff Greg Motley, and other concerned citizens.

Following the invocation, Elam announced that Bob Miller—lead contractor with the Kentucky Rural Water Association (KRWA)—would answer questions regarding MCWD's rate application to the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC).

KRWA is an association of all the water districts—just like this one—from around the

See **BOARD**, Page 3

Upcoming events at the Morgan Co. Extension Office

The following are programs and events provided by the Extension Office. Contact 743-3292 for more information or email morgan.ext@uky.edu.

Thursday, March 14 -- County Extension, Council, Extension Office, 5:30 pm; West Liberty Homemakers Club, Extension Office.

Monday, March 18 -- Towne 'N Country Homemakers Club, Extension Office, 5 pm; Farmers Market Training Sr & WIC, Extension Office, 5:30 pm.

Tuesday, March 19 -- 4-H

Board ...

(Continued From Page One)

state." Miller said, "My job working for them is to handle the paperwork that it takes to deal with the Public Service Commission. The Kentucky Division of Water provides grant funds to the KRWA, and KRWA uses those grant funds to do rate studies.

"I have just a couple of things I want the public to know before I hear them out. First of all, sending an application for a water rate increase is nothing that this board initiated. It is required to do this because the PSC ordered them to do it -- and said, 'It's time to do another rate study.'"

"This board -- all it can do is submit the application with the information that the PSC calls for. They didn't come up and say, 'You think we can get 40 percent off of these people?' No, it's nothing like that. They have a set of forms that have to be filled out with the information that the PSC requires. They fill that out and turn it in."

Miller further noted that he would discuss "further options" that he felt were not adequately explained to the board members during their previous meeting, but stated that he first wished hear comments the public.

Public Comments
A local citizen who identified himself as Alex Stacy took the floor to discuss water quality issues at his home on Hwy. 191 in conjunction with the proposed rate increase.

"I'll start," Stacy said. "Four months ago, water lines were replaced up 191. Ever since, my water has looked like one percent milk coming out of my faucet ... I called numerous times to let this be known, and I was told, 'It's air in your line.' After four months, 'air in my lines' is a bit of a stretch -- and you want to increase the rate by 41 percent? That's outrageous. At least get our water drinkable. I spend double now on drinking water than what I spend on what's coming out of my faucet."

Stacy noted that he is an employee of Frederick & May Construction, and that he had taken off from work to attend the meeting.

Local citizen Raleigh Jenkins also addressed a bill build-up issue in his own home and identified MCWD's documented water loss in recent years as an area of concern before addressing the proposed rate increase.

"Concerning the [water rate] raise, every year I get a modest increase on my retirement," Jenkins said. "This year I got \$89. My insurance went up 10 percent. My coverage on my wife went up 13 to 15 percent -- and I got a raise. Every time I get a raise, I go in the hole. So this [water rate increase] just adds icing on the cake."

Local citizen Joyce Pennington discussed billing issues following a leak that she had repaired at her home.

"I had a leak and I got a humongous water bill," Pennington said. "I fixed the leak, and I got another humongous water bill. The leak was fixed, but they told me it was my commode leaking from [in the MCWD office]. So how could they tell me that when I a guy go under the floor and check everything? The commode was not leaking, but I still got a [second] humongous water bill."

Pennington noted that MCWD had recently installed a new water meter at her home -- which Miller said could be

rate increase application had not yet been sent to the PSC prior to comments from local citizen Debora Stacy.

"I don't know how people are going to pay that," Stacy said. "Because you have a 19 percent [national] inflation rate. We just talked to people at the [Haze] Green Food Project line who are on a fixed income. Thirteen dollars may not seem like a big deal to a lot of people, but it is a big deal to [food pantry patrons]. They have to determine whether they are going to pay for water or pay for medicine. That's the position we're putting them in ... That's crazy."

Miller reiterated that MCWD members "didn't have any say" in the 41 percent increase.

"The PSC told them they had to send in an application," Miller said. "We gave them the forms and said here are the numbers you have to put in." Magistrate Eric Pelfrey asked Miller to clarify the origins of the 41 percent rate increase.

"Where did the 41 percent increase come from?" Pelfrey said. "Did it come from Kentucky Rural Water? I know you did a water rate study. What does this water rate study entail? Is it the finances of the water district? Is it the water loss? What does it break down to?" Miller further explained the process.

"The PSC says you've got to do a rate study and submit a rate application," Miller said. "There is a handful of things they want to know. You've got to set the rates based on the marketplace ... The water district has an exclusive franchise to serve this area, so it doesn't get to set its rates. The state sets the rates."

Miller stated that the rate increase is based on financial information from 2022, the last full year the water district had submitted financial information to the PSC -- and that a subsequent examination of costs includes operations and maintenance expenses, debt service payments and depreciation.

"The PSC] wants to know what has happened since 2022 that is known and measurable, and they require [the water district] to fill in that information," Miller said. "They say how much revenue do you get from your current rates and the difference [in expenses] is the amount of the rate increase."

Additionally, Miller said that PSC staffers would review and verify his rate study numbers upon receiving the MCWD application before noting other points of consideration.

"The PSC] knows that 41 percent represents a rate shock," Miller said. "The test they use is what's fair, just and reasonable -- and 41 percent in one year would not be fair, just and reasonable. So what they would want to do is decide how to ramp something like that in -- if this is where [the water district] needs to be and we can't get there in one step. So how many steps do we have to do?"

"What does my gut tell me? I can't speak on behalf of the PSC, but I do this enough to say that I would guess they are going to look at doing this over three years."

Debora Stacy spoke again regarding possible budget cuts. MCWD could make in lieu of a rate increase prior to further comments on the impact of heightened expenses from Magistrate Pelfrey -- who cited an increased number of employees, as well as recent vehicle and equipment purchases. Magistrate Pelfrey also in-

to erect a new facility on Glenn Avenue -- noted in the Courier both last year and last month -- employee Ashlee Mason cited black mold, a leaking roof, HVAC failures and other issues at the current building.

Elam told Magistrate Pelfrey that the new building will be fully funded with grant money, while several audience members inquired about the possibility of renovating the current facility.

"So, that lease you had, we need to see it," Magistrate Pelfrey replied. "Because no one can find it."

Elam stated that he would provide the lease agreement to the judge executive's office before discussing the rationale for the new building.

"The whole point of the new building is, one, we've outgrown this building," Elam said. "Two, we have parts scattered in two other buildings throughout the county -- across the road, at the transfer station, and we've had numerous thefts there."

Elam also cited the need for a drive-thru window as well as better customer access. Magistrate Pelfrey told the Courier on March 12 that he had viewed a copy of MCWD's lease agreements with the fiscal court, which Elam had provided to Judge Executive Jim Gazay's office.

The agreements, one for the current office building on Hwy. 172, and one for a building located on the transfer station property, indicate that MCWD leased both properties for a total of \$423,364.21 for 99 years.

Linda Bradley -- an employee of the judge executive's office -- confirmed that the funds exchanged at that time were MCWD insurance proceeds, as Elam stated during the meeting.

The documents were signed in February 2013 by former Judge Executive Tim Conley and former MCWD Board Chairman Roy Collett, and notarized by Cynthia Montgomery.

These agreements were made prior to Elam's MCWD tenure, which began in 2019.

Elam outlined his efforts to improve water service and reverse water loss through various programs and additional employees, who he said drive MCWD vehicle to their homes because they are on call in the event of water line breaks and other potential issues.

Local citizen Jessica Bowes returned to the water rate increase in her comments to Bob Miller.

"So what you're saying is, the 41 percent increase is happening anyway," Bowes said. "So it doesn't matter about us being here."

Miller told Bowes -- who also asked how the rate increase would improve water quality -- that citizens' input is critical to the PSC's process.

"This board needs to hear what you have to say and consider that when they submit the application," Miller said. "The other piece of it is that if you want your voice to be heard by the decision makers -- the PSC -- you've got to contact them ... What you are saying here tonight is important for me to hear and for the board members to hear. So you did the right thing by coming. But to get to the decision makers. You've got to get on the PSC website and put your comments on there."

Miller also told Magistrate Pelfrey that MCWD board members cannot lower the rate once approved by PSC, whose staffers will issue a report to commissioners in four to six

Kellacey

By Sandra Carpenter

March 12 -- Thought for the week: When God opens a door, don't doubt. Walk through it with faith.

DOUBT -- (To disbelieve, lack, uncertain, fear, question the truth).

We have all at one time or another faced doubt in our lives where we question something we have been told or hesitate to believe.

We also have self doubt when we don't have confidence in ourselves.

That is just human nature. In the Bible we read about Abraham, one of God's chosen. He doubted that God would give him a son. Moses doubted God when he was chosen to lead the people out of Egypt, because he had a speech problem. Moses was insecure but God told him to not doubt and he gave Moses ability to do miracles.

John the Baptist doubted Jesus at one point and sent his disciples to ask the question (Are you the one or do we look for another).

The disciples doubted (after Jesus had fed the 3,000 people) when they had the 5,000 and they asked how they could feed them. Just imagine: they walked with Jesus and went around helping heal the sick and still were uncertain of Jesus's ability.

When they were in the boat and the storm came they thought they would perish but Jesus saved them. When Peter got out the boat to walk on the water he did fine until he started to doubt and sank, but Jesus picked him up.

There are so many in the bible who had doubt.

When we deal with thoughts of doubt we need to pray and ask God for answers.

We don't need to fear going to God because he already knows everything. We need to place our faith in the word of God. Doubt is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. What do I do? Which way do I go?

When in doubt quote "I can do all things through him who gives me strength." By trusting God we can face our doubts and be assured of his love and go to him in prayer. Amen.

Hope everyone is enjoying our extra time of daylight. In just a few days SPRING will be upon us. So glad, hope we have an early spring with not a lot of rain. Baster lilies are coming up frogs are out. Can't wait till nature shows its arrival with buds springing out.

Tamera Tate visited over the weekend with Barbara Carpenter and the writer.

Betty Stewart visited with Barbara Carpenter and brought some KPCC to enjoy.

The writer and Barbara Carpenter were in Morehead for an appointment recently.

Prayers for all the sick and those who have lost loved ones. If you have news you like to have printed you can email me at andracarpenter9210@gmail.com

Event ...

(Continued From Page One)

Floor of the West Liberty City Hall on Main Street, is dubbed the "Upper Room," the name taken from the Biblical Book of Acts, chapter 2, where the Holy Spirit fell upon the early Believers in Jesus.

A wonderful bonus each year has been the broadcast of

News Of

Record

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Shelby Elam to Gabriel L. Mann and Madison A. Mann -- 1/4 acre more or less beginning at a set stone at the lower corner of the yard fence at creek with property address of 10439 Hwy. 191, Cannel City, Ky. \$85,000.

Johnny D. Cantrell and Beverly to Coppemead Valley LLC -- Land located on Pelfrey Branch of Elkfork near the Caskey line for exchange of \$5,000 worth of timber.

Marcella Davis Ratliff and Jeffery Ratliff to Jacob Dale Davis -- Land beginning at a poplar tree at the line of Stanley Robinson, thence a straight line to Hwy. 191. Love and affection.

Donna Byrd to Jeffrey Smith and Sim Shepherd -- 50 acres more or less beginning on two sugar trees standing on the north side of Licking River at the mouth of small drain, and a corner to tract deeded to E.L. Peyton and G.M. Hampton, \$32,000.

Ginger Henderson and William Henderson, David Fugett and Tammy Fugett, Tammy Hammitte, and Danny Fugett and Marilyn Fugett to Matthew Fugett -- Land on the waters of Haney Branch of Big Caney Creek. Tract I: Beginning near Lock Slacy line containing 12 acres more or less. Tract II: Beginning a corner between J.E. Stacy and J.W. Slacy containing 20 acres more or less. Love and affection.

CIRCUIT COURT
New civil suits -- Madison Wright vs. Jacob Vanderpool, March 11; Christina Marie Smith vs. Mark Wayne Hensley, March 7.

DISTRICT COURT
New civil suits -- Lauren N. Taulbee vs. Derek A. Taulbee, March 5; Carlie R. Stone vs. Morgan T. Fugate, March 7; Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Sarah Hastings, March 7; Velocity Investments LLC vs. Kenton Taulbee, March 7.

ARRAIGNMENTS
Deborah Adkins -- local city ordinance -- pre-trial conference April 16.
John B. Bailey -- operating on suspended/revoked operator's license, failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance -- pre-trial conference April 9.

John Glenn Eldridge -- no/ expired registration plates, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt -- rescheduled April 9.

Amanda D. Elliott -- operating on suspended/revoked operator's license, failure to surrender revoked operator's license -- rescheduled June 4.

Jerry Ferguson -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security -- pre-trial conference April 16.

Jerry M. Ferguson -- no/ expired registration receipt, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt -- rescheduled April 9.

John Glenn Eldridge -- no/ expired registration plates, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt -- rescheduled April 9.

Amanda D. Elliott -- operating on suspended/revoked operator's license, failure to surrender revoked operator's license -- rescheduled June 4.

Jerry Ferguson -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security -- pre-trial conference April 16.

Jerry M. Ferguson -- no/ expired registration receipt, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt -- rescheduled April 9.

Amanda D. Elliott -- operating on suspended/revoked operator's license, failure to surrender revoked operator's license -- rescheduled June 4.

Jerry Ferguson -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security -- pre-trial conference April 16.

Jerry M. Ferguson -- no/ expired registration receipt, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt -- rescheduled April 9.

Amanda D. Elliott -- operating on suspended/revoked operator's license, failure to surrender revoked operator's license -- rescheduled June 4.

Jerry Ferguson -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security -- pre-trial conference April 16.

Jerry M. Ferguson -- no/ expired registration receipt, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt -- rescheduled April 9.

Amanda D. Elliott -- operating on suspended/revoked operator's license, failure to surrender revoked operator's license -- rescheduled June 4.

Jerry Ferguson -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security -- pre-trial conference April 16.

Jerry M. Ferguson -- no/ expired registration receipt, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt -- rescheduled April 9.

pired registration receipt -- scheduled April 16.

Brandy Sue Harvey -- failed to produce insurance card pleaded guilty, \$50.

Charles May -- assault (6 degree domestic violence, 1st injury) -- case diverted for months.

Tia Salaz -- parent/custodian send child to school -- pre-conference May 28.

Jessica Bayless -- parent/custodian send child to school pre-trial conference May 28.

Shaina Sanders -- parent/custodian send child to school pre-trial conference May 28.

Marissa Christopher -- 1 live from another state (war required) -- defendant waived extradition to Ohio.

Pre-trial conference -- William Collins -- theft by un/law taking (shoplifting) -- plea guilty, 30 days.

Pre-trial conference -- B. Cletus Conley -- violation of H. lucky EPO/DVO -- rescheduled March 19.

Pre-trial conference -- Dor Keeton -- public intoxication I controlled substance, resist arrest, criminal trespassing (1 degree) -- rescheduled March 19.

Pre-trial conference -- Jeff Keeton -- assault (fourth degree domestic violence, minor injury) pleaded guilty, 365 days; violation of Kentucky EPO/DVO -- plea guilty, 365 days.

Pre-trial conference -- William H. Kenhard -- possess of a controlled substance (1 degree, first offense; methamphetamine), operating a motor vehicle under the influence alcohol/substance -- rescheduled March 19.

William McDowell -- violation of Kentucky EPO/DVO, harassing communications -- pre-trial conference March 12.

Pre-trial conference -- Bob Shepherd -- operating a motor vehicle under the influence alcohol/substance -- failed to appear, bench warrant issued.

Pre-trial conference -- Tara Basham -- theft by unlawful taking over \$500 but under \$1,000 -- pleaded guilty, 365 days.

Pre-trial conference -- Jac M. Cantrell -- driving on DL suspended license (first offense) -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Dar L. Collett -- assault (fourth degree domestic violence, minor injury) jury trial July 12.

Pre-trial conference -- Ge Ivan Gilliam -- operating a motor vehicle under the influence alcohol -- pleaded guilty, \$200.

Pre-trial conference -- Britte Carol Perkins -- improper equipment, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference -- Bel Carol Perkins -- failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registration receipt -- jury trial May 17.

LENOX NEWS

By Louise Caskey

March 11 -- We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Carolyn Daniel Montgomery, Mary F. Nickell, Mildred P. Smallwood, Herman Bailey, Junior Montgomery, Carolyn Keeton-Burks, Belva Helton, Roger Watson, Danny Stevens, Virginia Wood, Lowell M. Holbrook, Truman Hicks (husband of Emily Johnson Hicks, Knott County) and to all others who have lost loved ones.

Grace Ramey, a student at Ft. West Coast University, Ft. Meyers, FL, recently visited for a long weekend with her family, Mr. and Mrs. Brad Ramey, Reagan and Carrie, and Mr. and Mrs. Dale DeHart and son Dwight, of Ft. Mitchell.

Mrs. Josephine O'Neal recently visited with her grand-

Mrs. Caroline Ramey Ft. Mitchell accompanied, I daughter, Carrie, to Louisville KY last weekend to participate in a volleyball tournament with her Beachwood Middle School team in which Carrie is a player. While there, they visited with Mrs. Linda Pasch Kyle and North Paschal. Mrs. Josephine O'Neal was a Sunday afternoon visitor to her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Ge. Bolin. HELLO to all the reside and staff of the West Liberty Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Oranges used for a fresh dish will peel much easier placed in a bowl of boiling water for 5-7 minutes, before which makes removing all white pulp much easier.

Reportedly, lemons washed with water and refrigerated in a plastic bag will preserve

percent milk coming out of my faucet ... I called numerous times to let this be known, and I was told, 'It's air in your line.'

"After four months, 'air in my lines' is a bit of a stretch - and you want to increase the rate by 41 percent? That's outrageous. At least get our water drinkable. I spend double now on drinking water than what I spend on what's coming out of my faucet."

Stacy noted that he is an employee of Frederick & May Construction, and that he had taken off from work to attend the meeting.

Local citizen Raleigh Jenkins also addressed a silt build-up issue in his own home and identified MCWD's documented water loss in recent years as an area of concern before addressing the proposed rate increase.

"Concerning the [water rate] increase, every year I get a modest increase on my retirement," Jenkins said. "This year I lost \$89. My insurance went up 10 percent. My coverage on my wife went up 13 to 15 percent - and I got a raise. Every time I get a raise, I go in the hole. So this [water rate increase] just adds icing on the cake."

Local citizen Joyce Pennington discussed billing issues following a leak that she had repaired at her home.

"I had a leak and I got a humongous water bill," Pennington said. "I fixed the leak, and I got another humongous water bill. The leak was fixed, but they told me it was my commode leaking from [in the MCWD office]. So how could they tell me that when I a guy go under the floor and check everything? The commode was not leaking, but I still got a [second] humongous water bill."

Pennington noted that MCWD had recently installed a new water meter at her home - which Miller said could be the cause of the significant bill increase, as the old meter could have slowed and not have correctly registered previous amounts of water.

Pennington also inquired about the proposed water rate increase, prompting Miller to note that MCWD board members cannot set rates.

"The Public Service Commission sets your rates," Miller said.

Local citizen Emmanuel Hampton addressed other recent water rate increases.

"This board turned in a 41 percent increase [to the PSC]," Hampton said. "With that raise we are looking at about a 65 percent raise over the last year and a half."

Miller told Hampton that the

MCWD insurance process, as Elam stated during the meeting.

The documents were signed in February 2013 by former Judge Executive Tim Conley and former MCWD Board Chairman Roy Collett, and notarized by Cynthia Montgomery.

These agreements were made prior to Elam's MCWD tenure, which began in 2019.

Elam outlined his efforts to improve water service and reverse water loss through various programs and additional employees, who he said drive MCWD vehicles to their homes because they are on call in the event of water line breaks and other potential issues.

Local citizen Jessica Bowes returned to the water rate increase in her comments to Bob Miller.

"So what you're saying is, the 41 percent increase is happening anyway," Bowes said. "So it doesn't matter about us being here."

Miller told Bowes - who also asked how the rate increase would improve water quality - that citizens' input is critical to the PSC's process.

"This board needs to hear what you have to say and consider that when they submit the application," Miller said. "The other piece of it is that if you want your voice to be heard by the decision makers - the PSC - you've got to contact them ... What you are saying here tonight is important for me to hear and for the board members to hear. So you did the right thing by coming. But to get to the decision makers, you've got to get on the PSC website and put your comments on there."

Miller also told Magistrate Pelfrey that MCWD board members cannot lower the rate once approved by PSC, whose staffers will issue a report to commissioners in four to six months.

"[The MCWD board] will get two weeks to respond to the staff report," Miller said. "Then the PSC commissioners will take 3 to 6 months [to issue final rate approval]."

PSC Contact Information
MCWD employee Ashlee Mason provided Kentucky Public Service Commission contact information to those in attendance:

- **Mail** - Kentucky Public Service Commission, 211 Sower Blvd., Frankfort KY 40602-3460.

- **Phone** - 502-564-3940.
- **Toll-Free Hotline** - 1-800-772-4636.

- **Website** - <https://psc.ky.gov>

PSC office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Additional Information
Citizens can inspect the rate increase application to the Public Service Commission in the Morgan County Water District office located at 1009 Hwy. 172 in West Liberty, or contact water district officials at 743-1204.

Magistrate Pelfrey replied, "So here's what I'm getting to. Why are you building a new building?"

To regard to MCWD's plans

we are so busy in the bible who had doubt.

When we deal with thoughts of doubt we need to pray and ask God for answers.

We don't need to fear going to God because he already knows everything. We need to place our faith in the word of God. Doubt is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. What do I do? Which way do I go?

When in doubt quote "I can do all things through him who gives me strength." By trusting God we can face our doubts and be assured of his love and go to him in prayer. Amen.

Hope everyone is enjoying our extra time of daylight. In just a few days SPRING will be upon us. So glad, hope we have an early spring with not a lot of rain. Easter Hikes are coming up frogs are out, Can't wait till nature shows its arrival with buds springing out.

Tamera Tate visited over the weekend with Barbara Carpenter and the writer.

Betty Stewart visited with Barbara Carpenter and brought some KFC to enjoy.

The writer and Barbara Carpenter were in Morehead for an appointment recently.

Prayers for all the sick and those who have lost loved ones.

If you have news you like to have printed you can email me at andracarpenter9210@gmail.com

Event ...

(Continued From Page One)

floor of the West Liberty City Hall on Main Street, is dubbed the "Upper Room," the name taken from the Biblical Book of Acts, chapter 2, where the Holy Spirit fell upon the early Believers in Jesus.

A wonderful bonus each year has been the broadcast of the entire event on the MRTC local access channel 54. Feedback from the community has been gratifying as a number of folks have expressed their gratitude and pleasure at being able to see friends and family read from the Holy Scriptures on TV.

This will mark the eighth year that MRTC has broadcast the event.

There are several examples from the Scriptures where the Word of the Lord was read over the nation of Israel to remind them of who they belonged to, and of the covenant that existed between God Almighty and His people. It is our hope that God will use the Bible Reading Marathon as one piece of a plan to bring about a poddy revival for Morgan County.

Most of the "watches" are yet to be filled. If your church, Sunday School class, youth group, women's group, men's group - or any group or club from the community - would like to take part, please contact Jamie Brink at 606-438-6137 as soon as possible.

Sarah Hastings, March 7. Velocity Investments LLC vs. Kenton Taulbee, March 7.

ARRAIGNMENTS

Deborah Adkins - local city ordinance - pre-trial conference April 9.

John B. Bailey - operating on suspended/revoked operator's license, failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance - pre-trial conference April 9.

John Glenn Eldridge - no/ expired registration plates, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt - rescheduled April 9.

Amanda D. Elliott - operating on suspended/revoked operator's license, failure to surrender/revoked operator's license - rescheduled June 4.

Jerry Ferguson - failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security - pre-trial conference April 16.

Jerry M. Ferguson - no/ex-

Basham - theft by unlawful taking over \$500 but under \$1,000 - pleaded guilty, 365 days.

Pre-trial conference - Ja M. Cantrell - driving on C suspended license (first offer) - jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference - Di L. Collett - assault (fourth deg domestic violence, minor injury) jury trial July 12.

Pre-trial conference - G Ivan Gilliam - operating a m vehicle under the influence alcohol - pleaded guilty, \$200 fine - pre-trial conference - Katie Carol Perkins - impro equipment, no/ expired Kentucky registration receipt, no/ expired registration plates, failure of non-owner operator to maintain required insurance - jury trial May 17.

Pre-trial conference - Bri Carol Perkins - failure of ow to maintain required insurance/security, no/ expired registra-

LENOX NEWS

By Louise Caskey

March 11 - We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Carolyn Daniel Montgomery, Mary F. Nickell, Mildred P. Smallwood, Herman Bailey, Junior Montgomery, Carolyn Keeton-Burks, Belva Helton, Roger Watson, Danny Stevens, Virginia Wood, Lowell M. Holbrook, Truman Hicks (husband of Emily Johnson Hicks, Knott County) and to all others who have lost loved ones.

Grace Ramey, a student at FL West Coast University, Ft. Meyers, FL, recently visited for a long weekend with her family, Mr. and Mrs. Brad Ramey, Reagan and Carlie, and Mr. and Mrs. Dale DeHart and son Dwight, of Ft. Mitchell.

Mrs. Josephine O'Neal recently visited with her grandson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Evan O'Neal and children, Eian, Kase, and Batlee.

Mrs. Linda Fowler and daughter, Mrs. Kristen Hicks, of Ashland; Mr. and Mrs. Terry Davis of Xenia, OH; Kyle Paschal and David Puckett of Shelbyville were recently in Ft. Mitchell for a weekend visit with Mr. and Mrs. Brad Ramey, Reagan and Carlie, and Mr. and Mrs. Dale DeHart.

Mrs. Caroline Ramey Ft. Mitchell accompanied daughter, Carlie, to Louisville, KY last weekend to participate in a volleyball tournament for her Beachwood Middle School team in which Carlie is a player. While there, they visited with Mrs. Linda Pasce Kyle and North Paschal.

Mrs. Josephine O'Neal a Sunday afternoon visited her sister, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bolin.

HELLO to all the residents and staff of the West Liberty Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

• Oranges used for a fish dish will peel much easier placed in a bowl of boiling water for 5-7 minutes, before which makes removing all white pulp much easier.

• Reportedly, lemons last 3-4 weeks when sprinkled with water and refrigerated in a plastic bag.

• Use a well greased tin pan for baking tomatoes, apples, peppers, etc. which will help maintain the shape of the food.

• Fringes on small throw rugs can be kept flat and straight by spraying with spray starch after laundering.

• For a potted plant in a pot, add a spoonful of a soil oil to the soil and water thoroughly.

Recall issued for baby swings due to suffocation risk

March 7 - An infant swing sold at Walmart stores and online at Target, Amazon, and other sites have been recalled by the product's manufacturer.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, several thousand of the company's Nova Baby Infant Swings - an infant sleep product - have been recalled because of a suffocation hazard.

The affected swings are gray and have a canopy with a

yellow moon, blue cloud, pink star hanging from it, brand's name, "Jojo Baby" is located at the base of swing while the product name "NOVA" is found on the seat.

The products were sold between Nov. 2022 and Nov. 2023.

Although no incidents resulting in injury have been reported in connection to recalled swings customers advised to immediately stop using the swings and contact Jojo Baby for a free repair that includes a new seat v updated warnings, updated t and an updated remote control

Subscribe Today!

ARE YOU COVERED?
ALL INSURANCE SERVICES



We Have **MANY** Companies To Quote Your Insurance With

ISON
Insurance Agency, Inc.
606-743-4472
facebook

The Licking Valley Courier

(USPS 812-040)

West Liberty, Kentucky 41472

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Advertising Opportunity

Your Advertising Message and Logo can go here
Where it is certain to be seen and read!



Call 743-3551 Today - Ask For Rick

Vol. 114 - No. 3 SPEAKING OF AND FOR MORGAN, THE BLUEGRASS COUNTY OF THE MOUNTAINS **75¢** Per Copy \$33.00 Year In County \$36.00 Year In Kentucky \$38.00 Year Outside Kentucky

GADD MotorMeals
...
Fri., March 22
J.A. Oldfield & Son
Time: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Wellness Center Art Exhibition Reception Slated March 22



The public is invited to attend a reception on Friday, March 22, from 5 o'clock to 8 o'clock p.m. for local and area artists whose work is featured in the newly-hung March/April art exhibition at the Morgan County Youth and Wellness Center gallery.

Artists are: Diana Weddington Adkins, Rita Adkins, Jennifer Bell, Dwalia Sharon

Boggs, Sylvia Carter, Jane Collett, Ron Gevedon, Phillip Hannon, Rosa Havens, Dean Hill, Pam Oldfield, Meade, Montana Price and Ally Ross.

The event is free and everyone is cordially invited. Art work shown is by Montana Price, Dwalia Shyaron Boggs, Ron Gevedon, and Dean Hill.

Water District Board Meeting, Part 2 Rural Water rep says water dist. "bleeding" \$40,000 per month

Sheriff Motley offers thoughts on transparency; others express concern about MCWD operations; public urged to contact PSC about rate increase

EDITOR'S NOTE
The following is the second installment of our report on the Morgan County Water District board meeting conducted on Monday, March 11.

The first installment - which appeared in last week's edition of the Courier - concluded with Bob Miller, lead contractor for the Kentucky Rural Water Association, explaining the process by which the Public Service Commission (PSC) approves or rejects rate increases for utility service providers.

While Miller predicted that the PSC would likely approve a rate increase for MCWD, he noted that the amount could be more or less than the proposed 41 percent - and that citizens should contact the PSC to air their concerns.

We have again provided PSC contact information at the end of this report.

By **Miranda M. Cantrell**
Morgan County Water District board members heard

comments and concerns regarding a proposed 41 percent water rate increase during their regular monthly meeting at their entity's office on Hwy. 172.

All board members were in attendance including Chairperson Brian Wells, Secretary/Treasurer Zachary Engle and Commissioners Steve Clark and Raina Helton, who were present when the gathering was called to order at 4:30 p.m.; and Commissioner Steve Gunnell, who arrived at 6:02 p.m. following a late meeting in Lewis County.

MCWD General Manager Shannon Blam and water district employees were also on hand for the public comment segment of the meeting.

As noted in last week's edition, approximately 35 to 40 people attended the meeting, including Magistrates Eric Pelfrey and Tommy Fannin, Sheriff Greg Motley and other concerned citizens.

More Public Comments
Kentucky Rural Water Association
See **BOARD**, Page 3

Morgan Co.'s employment rate up in Jan.
March 14 - Unemployment rates rose in 115 counties when January 2023 and January 2024 fell in Bullitt, Mercer and Meade counties, remained the same in Madison and Nelson counties, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency of the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

Morgan County's jobless rate for January was 7.0 percent - up from 5.6 percent in December. In January 4,127 members of the county's 4,450 liable work force was employed.

Woodford County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the Commonwealth at 3.4%. It was owed by Washington County 3.6%, Fayette and Marion counties, 3.7% each; Oldham, Hart and Shelby counties, 4% each; Anderson County, 4.1%.

See **RATE**, Page 3

Blood drive slated today at Christian Church

LEXINGTON, Ky. - Kentucky Blood Center (KBC), which provides lifesaving blood products to more than 70 hospitals in Kentucky, will host a spring blood drive and needs donors.

KBC relies on volunteer blood donors throughout the state to make sure blood is there when it's needed for trauma and cancer patients and so much more.

As a thank you for donating at the upcoming Morgan County community blood drive, all donors will receive a great spring "Give Y'all" T-shirt (while supplies last).

The Morgan County community blood drive will be 1-6 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at the West Liberty Christian Church Fellowship Hall located at 304 Prestonsburg St. in West Liberty.

Donations at KBC only take 45 minutes from registration to refreshment. The blood collection process takes 8-12 minutes. KBC staff are professionally trained to provide a comfortable and relaxing donation experience.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health, show a photo I.D. and

See **DRIVE**, Page 3

Deadline for Farm Bureau scholarship applications April 15

Morgan County Farm Bureau scholarships are available to Morgan County High School seniors whose families are members of Morgan County Farm Bureau. Scholarship applications may be picked up from Mr. Chris Lindon or from the high school counselor.

Senior commodities to be given out April 3rd

Commodities for Seniors from God's Pantry will be given out on Wednesday, April 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the active list, and from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. for waiting list. Please bring something to put your items in. If you have any questions call 606-495-5631.

Annual Bible Reading Marathon coming soon

Event sponsored by Ministerial Assn. set March 22 thru 24

The 8th Annual Morgan County Bible Reading Marathon will take place Friday, March 22 through Sunday, April 24.

Over the past several years, a growing number of churches have participated in the Bible Reading Marathon. Sponsored by the Morgan County Ministerial Association, the BRM has become a staple in the cooperative church life of the county, taking place each year in the week prior to Holy Week. It begins on the Friday before

hand, and finishes during the evening of Palm Sunday. The dates, of course, vary slightly from year-to-year, depending on the observance of Easter.

There are a total of 14 three-hour-long "watches." Churches or groups sign up to supply the readers necessary for that three hour time commitment. Each watch has 12 fifteen-minute slots, so there is a need for some 168 total readers over the three day period. Believe it or not - there is no preaching!

During the three day period, the New Testament will be read about two times.

Reading takes place from 6:00 am to 12 midnight each day.
See **BIBLE**, Page 3

Gold
NO

QUALITY QUICK LUBE, LLC
123 Hwy. 191
West Liberty, Ky. 41472

Check With Us For All Your Tire And Mechanic Needs!

Board ...

(Continued From Page One)

sociation (KRWV) Lead Contractor Bob Miller - who conducted MCWD's most recent rate study that preceded the 41 percent proposal - and MCWD General Manager Shannon Elam continued to field questions for the second half of the rate increase discussion.

After Miller outlined the Public Service Commission's (PSC) process for approving and rejecting rate increase proposals, citizens again took the floor with additional inquiries for Elam regarding MCWD operations.

Local citizen Debora Stacy - whose comments also appeared in last week's edition - inquired as to whether MCWD utilizes outside contractors in addition to regular employees.

"With 18 employees, are you guys still contracting out work - like taps and all that stuff?" Stacy asked Elam, who responded that MCWD employees make all tap settings.

(Elam told the Courier last month that MCWD currently has 16 employees.)

Magistrate Eric Pelfrey - a prominent figure in last week's report - again addressed the rate increase issue with Miller. "[The fiscal court] knows all about rate increases," Pelfrey said. "We had a rate increase at the [garbage] transfer station. We hated to - but we were going in the hole over \$300,000 in a year ... If the finances [at the water district] are sustainable, if they are good, if they are going to make it ... Shouldn't we look into a lower rate increase?"

Miller offered further insight on MCWD's financial status before reiterating earlier comments regarding the PSC procedures.

"You should always look at a lower rate increase," Miller said. "But this district is bleeding - and it's bleeding at a pace of about \$40,000 a month. So it's not sustainable."

"[The PSC] is not going to implement a 41 percent rate increase at one time. Second, they are not going to be ready to act if we submit this [rate application] tomorrow morning. They are not going to act on a rate increase for at least eight months, probably more than 12 months."

"This is no fun for anybody, and I doubt you're walking out of here feeling any better than you did when you walked in. But the thing I love about living in America is that we get to come in and have a say - and the people who are appointed and elected have to listen. And you get to at least understand how the process works. The PSC has to listen. So my advice is to get your voice heard [by

the PSC]."

Sheriff Greg Motley announced that he wished to speak. "I talk to people every day in the community," Motley said. "I think transparency is a big problem that people in general have right now. I just know this because I'm the elected sheriff, and I'm the tax collector - so I understand about transparency and how people get really upset if they don't know where their dollars are going."

"I think that most of us can accept a raise if we had an understanding of why ... I speak for myself - but when [the sheriff's office] buys new cars, people see that and wonder how we got that, how we paid for it ... We can justify that a lot of times by saying, 'Well, we gotta have this because that's how we get to your house [in an emergency].'"

"But when you start talking about building new buildings and things like that ... Things can be 'free,' if you will, but money comes from somewhere. Somebody is paying for it."

(Sheriff Motley was referencing earlier comments noted in last week's report from Elam and MCWD Board Chair Brian Wells that MCWD's building project on Glenn Avenue would be "fully funded" with a federal Appalachian Regional Commission grant.)

Debora Stacy expressed agreement with Sheriff Motley's remarks.

"I think it should have been expected that you put a 41 percent increase in rates, you should have known most of the county was going to be a bit upset," Stacy said.

Miller then referenced the Courier's initial Feb. 22 report regarding the rate increase proposal.

"Okay, here's what happened," Miller said. "A reporter - and I don't know the reporter ..."

Stacy interjected, "I know the reporter. She's very accurate. She's sitting right here."

"The reporter only reported what she was told," Miller acknowledged. "That's the point I'm getting at ... The guy who was here from the Kentucky Rural Water Association [at the previous MCWD board meeting] did not fully explain the options [to Elam and the board]. He's not a bad guy; he just didn't do an effective job."

"So the reporter could only report what she was told ... We would be having a totally different discussion if the person who was here last month had done a better job explaining what the options were. Kentucky Rural Water is going to own that."

Courier Editor Miranda M. Cantrell made a rare public comment in response to Miller's statement.

"Thank you for owning

that," Cantrell said. Local citizen Ronnie Lewis implored MCWD board members to speak on the water rate increase.

"The water board has all the answers, right?" Lewis asked. "They're sitting here not saying a word, and they know more about what's going on than we do. Why ain't they getting their feet wet?"

Miller told Lewis that he personally had requested to address the audience to clarify the rate increase application process, but that board members could also speak if they wished to do so.

Kevin Cantrell - a long-time City of West Liberty water department employee attending the meeting as a private citizen along with colleagues Travis Haney and David Hinton - returned to the issue of contractors making taps for MCWD.

Elam stated again that there are currently no contractors making taps for MCWD.

Following Cantrell's comments, Miller concluded his remarks to the audience.

"To some extent, this district went a lot of years eating seed corn, and now's got to catch up," Miller said. "I thank you for the privilege of being here to answer your questions, and I swear to you that I've told you the truth. But the thing is, if you want to be effective with your criticism - talk to the decision makers."

Post-Meeting Comments And Other Info

In additional comments to the Courier following the public comment segment of the meeting, Miller further clarified that despite the language in a legal advertisement that appeared in the Courier the weeks of Feb. 22, Feb. 29 and March 7 stating that MCWD had filed rate increase application "on or about Feb. 21, 2024," the document has not yet been submitted to the PSC.

"The language in the customer service notice is prescribed by the PSC," Miller said. "[MCWD] doesn't have any freedom on that. So they haven't done it yet because they have not gathered all of the statements of disclosure of related party transactions ... I don't know that anybody has related party transactions though."

MCWD's most recent rate hike prior to the current proposal came in 2021, with the graduated implementation of a 13.2 percent increase in phase one and a 11.6 percent increase in phase two.

The 2021 increase came as a result of a public hearing conducted by the PSC in July 2019 regarding excessive long-term water loss in Morgan and several other counties.

Prior to the 2019 PSC hearing, the water district had re-

corded a water loss of 52.7 percent, with Elam noting last month that employees have since reduced that number to approximately 30 percent.

The 2019 hearings also prompted MCWD officials to increase fees for non-recurring charges on services such as meter testing, disconnection, reconnection, damage to meter settings and lids, meter relocation, deposits, bank drafts, new service/tap-on and service calls/investigations, and to implement a \$5.87 customer surcharge.

(The \$5.87 surcharge was discontinued last year, however.)

Miller lauded MCWD's efforts to combat water loss in recent years.

"To some extent, [MCWD General Manager Shannon Elam] represents a success story on the [water loss] turnaround," Miller said.

Magistrate Brandon Evans - who did not attend the March 11 meeting - contacted the Courier on March 12 to discuss the proposed rate increase.

"When I first saw the report on the 41 percent increase, my first thought was that people in my [magistrate] district can't afford that," Evans said.

The Ezel area magistrate expressed further concerns regarding MCWD's finances, in reference to Miller's comment that the entity is "bleeding at a pace of about \$40,000 a month" - a statement he learned of from others who attended the meeting.

"How long can they sustain that?" Evans asked. "I would hope that the board will look at that and come up with a solution that doesn't include a substantial increase in the rate. Hopefully the PSC will also recognize people can't afford a 41 percent increase at one time and implement it over a 3- to 5-year period."

PSC Contact Information

MCWD employee Ashlee Mason provided Kentucky Public Service Commission contact information to those attending the March 11 meeting:

• Mail - Kentucky Public Service Commission, 211 Sower Blvd., Frankfort KY 40602-3460.

• Phone - 502-564-3940.

• Toll-Free Hotline - 1-800-772-4636.

• Website - https://psc.ky.gov.

PSC office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Additional Information

Citizens can inspect the rate increase application to the Public Service Commission in the Morgan County Water District office located at 1009 Hwy. 172 in West Liberty, or contact water district officials at 743-1204.

L B Kentucky Hill Farm

Locally grown and chemical free.

Bedding plants

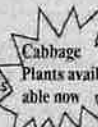
Flowers

House plants

Fresh vegetables

Strawberries

And More



2980 Highway 7

Ezel Ky 41425

Phone: 606-359

Mon Wed & Fr

Buy direct from our farm and greenhouse

News Of Record

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

• Joe and Christine Cantrell to Paul I. Hinton Jr. - Beginning at a steel stake on the NW side of Old 172 joining Brent Jenkins property. \$211,000

• Megan Holbrook and Michael Joe Holbrook to Keith Wilson and Sindy Wilson - 5 acres more or less on Blackwater Creek a corner of the Daniel Hampton property following right of way of Hwy 882 \$300,000.

• Susan Jewell Hutchinson to Cari Butler Mosley - Parcel 3: 2 tracts on the waters of Elkfork Tract No. 1: 14 acres more or less beginning at a water birch a corner between Aaron Fairchild and Kenneth Fairchild near Helford McKenzie, Tract No. 2: Beginning at the division fence between thew Caskey and Aaron Fairchild near D.P. McKenzie's line containing 16 acres more or less. \$18,500.

• USDA Rural Development to Stacie Slusher - a parcel of land on the north side of Meeting Br. Road approximately 1.1 miles west of Ezel on Meeting House Road and near line of Johnny G. Mays. \$74,300.

CIRCUIT COURT

New civil suits - Roy Couch et al vs. Frank Cox et al, March 11; Grant Robert Sorrell vs. Ashley Lynelle Sorrell, March 12; ANP Tax Lien Company, LLC vs. Christopher Thomas et al, March 13; Chelsay Morgan vs. Eugene Dawson Blevins, March 13; ADS Tax Lien Company, LLC vs. Benjamin Mark Gibson et al, March 14.

DISTRICT COURT

New civil - Sys. Acct. Ky. Foster Gare vs. Kayla Conley, March 11.

ARRAIGNMENTS

Elijah Keaven Branham - no expired Kentucky registration receipt improper registration plate - bench warrant issued.

Autumn Hope Campbell - speeding 5 mph over limit - rescheduled April 16.

Aaron Michael Combs - speeding 10 mph over limit, failure to wear seat belts - rescheduled March 26.

Lisa Ann Lawhorn - speeding 25 mph over limit - rescheduled

June 25.

Pre-trial conference Davis - theft by deception cold checks (two rescheduled May 14.

Pre-trial conference Davis - theft by deception cold checks - res May 14.

Pre-trial conference L. Davis - speeding 16 limit, failure of owner to required insurance/sec scheduled May 14.

Pre-trial conference intoxication by a contractor - pleaded guilty resisting arrest - plea 90 days.

Pre-trial conference McDowell - violation of EPO/DVO, harassing citations - bench trial April 26.

Pre-trial conference thew Peyton - violatic lucky EPO/DVO - res May 26.

Pre-trial conference thew Peyton - assault, gre minor injury) - res March 26.

Pre-trial conference thew Peyton - assault, gre; minor injury) - res March 26.

Pre-trial conference Dillingham - failure to maintain required ir security - rescheduled

Pre-trial conference Trey Dillingham - sp mph over, failure to insurance card - pre-fre emos March 26.

Pre-trial conference Gregory W. Greening a motor vehicle influence of alcohol - guilty, 2 days, ADE.

Pre-trial conference Lynn Salyers - operati vehicle under the int alcohol/substance - re April 23.

Pre-trial conference thew Tobin-Wright - 20 mph over limit, op suspended/revoled c license; failure to pssance card, possessio alcohol beverage co a motor vehicle, lice in possession - res April 30.

Pre-trial conference thew D. Tobin-Wright of owner to maintain insurance/security, c DUI-suspended licens tense) - rescheduled

Subscribe Today!!

Bible ...

(Continued From Page One)

day. The City Council chambers, located on the second floor of the West Liberty City Hall on Main Street, is dubbed the "Upper Room," the name taken from the Biblical Book of Acts, chapter 2, where the Holy Spirit fell upon the early Believers in Jesus.

A wonderful bonus each year has been the broadcast of the entire event on the MRTC local access channel 54. Feedback from the community has been gratifying as a number of folks have expressed their gratitude and pleasure at being able to see friends and family

This will mark the eighth year that MRTC has broadcast the event.

There are several examples from the Scriptures where the Word of the Lord was read over the nation of Israel to remind them of who they belonged to, and of the covenant that existed between God Almighty and His people. It is our hope that God will use the Bible Reading Marathon as one piece of a plan to bring about a godly revival for Morgan County.

Most of the "watches" are yet to be filled. If your church, Sunday School class, youth group, women's group, men's group - or any group or club from the community - would like to take part, please contact Jamie Brunk at 606-438-6137

2024 SPRING REVIVAL WHEN March 26-30 @ 7pm Nightly March 31 @ 7 am WHERE

Tuesday 7pm Diamonds Are Fall Wednesday 7pm A LOOK WITHIN Thursday 7pm What Was Daniel Thinking Friday 7pm

EXHIBIT B

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
MORGAN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A
MOTION FOR EMERGENCY INTERIM RATES WITH THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION AND ALL OTHER
NECESSARY FILINGS IN RELATION TO THE RATE APPLICATION**

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of Morgan County Water District (“District”) was held on March 21, 2023, after due and proper notice of such meeting was given, and after a quorum was declared, during which meeting the Board discussed and considered the proposal presented by its General Manager, Shannon Elam.

Upon motion by SC and seconded by RH, and duly carried, the following RESOLUTION was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the District is a non-profit water district organized pursuant to KRS Chapter 74, and its purpose is to provide safe, and reliable water service at rates and terms that are fair, just and reasonable; and,

WHEREAS, the District caused to be filed, an application for an adjustment of rates with the Kentucky Public Service Commission;

WHEREAS, Mogan County Water District’s financial and legal consultants have recommended that the District file a motion for the Kentucky Public Service Commission to consider ordering emergency interim rates to be placed in effect as soon as possible;

WHEREAS, the leadership and management of the Morgan County Water District have thoroughly reviewed the District’s financial condition and it has become apparent to the Board to request interim rates be placed in effect by filing a motion for consideration with the Kentucky Public Service Commission; and,

WHEREAS, the District intends to file a motion with the Commission; as part of its application for rate adjustment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Morgan County Water District Board of Commissioners as follows:

Section 1. The facts, recitals, and statements contained in the foregoing preamble of this Resolution are true and correct and are hereby affirmed and incorporated as a part of this Resolution.

Section 2. The Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the recommendation of the District’s financial and legal consultants.

Section 3. The management of Morgan County Water District is authorized to take all necessary and advisable actions in connection with the motion for the Kentucky Public Service Commission to consider ordering emergency interim rates to be placed in effect as soon as possible.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

DATE: 3/21/24

Brian C. Miller
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

ATTEST:

[Signature]
SECRETARY