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Vol. 113— No. 52 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 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.
• Direct sales.
• Candles.
• Homemade decor.
• Photography.
• Wood crafts.
• Leather goods.
See FAIR, Page 3

Feb. 29 is deadline to apply for Farm Bureau scholarships
High school youths interested in Kentucky Farm Bureau scholarships – including KFB-administered state and county scholarships – must complete applications by Feb. 29 on our website at www.kyfb.com/scholarships.
To be considered, all requested materials must be submitted with the application. Winners will be notified by April 2024.
This is separate to the local Morgan County Farm Bureau Memorial Scholarship, which will be available at a later date through the Morgan County High School counselor's office/Chris Lindon.

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 at 1009 Hwy. 172 (former Rifle Coal 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 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

Upcoming Events At The Extension Office

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

- Friday, March 1 – Extension on the Road – Oldfields, 10 am-2pm; CAIP Ag Grant Receipts Due
- Tuesday, March 5 – 4-H Sewing Club, Extension Office, 4 pm
- Thursday, March 7 – 4-H County Demonstrations Contest, Extension Office, 6 pm
- Monday, March 11 – Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop, Extension Office, 6 pm; Mountain Beekeepers Association, Extension Office, 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, March 12 – County 4th Grade 4-H Dollars & Sense Program, Ezel Elementary School; Farmers

Market Meeting, Extension Office, 5:30 pm; 4-H Shooting Sports Registration Meeting, Extension Office, 6 pm; Country Cousins Homemakers Club, Extension Office, 7 pm

- Wednesday, March 13 – Fruit Plant Orders Due to Extension Office
- Thursday, March 14 – County Extension, Council, Extension Office, 5:30 pm; West Liberty Homemakers Club, Extension Office; Towne 'N Country Homemakers Club, Extension Office, 5 pm
- Tuesday, March 19 – 4-H Sewing Club, Extension Office, 4 pm
- Wednesday, March 20 – 4-H Reality Store 4th & 7th Grades, Middle School
- Thursday, March 21 – Lunch & Learn Garden Injury
See EVENTS, Page 5

Blood drive is today at W.L. Christian Ch.

LEXINGTON, Ky. – There are few kinder gestures to help humankind than donating blood, and Kentucky Blood Center (KBC) has the perfect opportunity to help your fellow man.
KBC will host an upcoming drive in your area at the following location. All donors who give blood at this KBC drive will receive a "Be Human Kind" long-sleeve shirt (while supplies last) as a thank you for donating blood.
The Morgan County community blood drive is scheduled for 1-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29, in the West Liberty Christian Church Fellowship Hall located at 304 Prestonsburg St., West Liberty.
One in seven people at hos-
See DRIVE, Page 3

Fiscal court minutes from Feb. 22 meeting are listed

The following is an unofficial listing of minutes from the regular Feb. 22 meeting of the Morgan County Fiscal Court:
• **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Magistrates Brandon Evans, Tommy Fannin, Donnie Keeton, Eric Pelfrey and Leroy Phipps, and Judge Executive Jim Gazay.
• **MOTION PASSED** – Approval of the minutes of the last meeting of the Morgan County Fiscal Court. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Eric Pelfrey.
Vote – Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** – Approval of the resolution needed to apply for remaining House Bill 1 funding for the clerk's office purchase of an election scanner. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Eric Pelfrey.
Vote – Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** – Approval to take 5/10 of a mile of Timber Lane into the county road system. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Tommy Fannin.
Vote – Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** – Approval of the treasurer's reconciled financial statement. Passed with a motion by Tommy Fannin and a second by Donnie Keeton.
Vote – Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** – Approval of changes to the treasurer's budgeted chart of accounts. Passed with a motion by Tommy Fannin and a second by Donnie Keeton.
Vote – Unanimous yes.
• **MOTION PASSED** – Approval of the updated standing
See MINUTES, Page 3




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