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Vol. 116— No. 37 SPEAKING OF AND FOR MORGAN, THE BLUEGRASS COUNTY OF THE MOUNTAINS **75¢** Per Copy \$35.00 Year In County \$38.00 Year In Kentucky \$40.00 Year Outside Kentucky

Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 7th

Additional events also on tap for "W. Liberty Small Town Christmas"

The West Liberty Tourism Commission will present "West Liberty's Small Town Christmas" Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 7, starting at 5 p.m.

The parade will start at the Wellness Center and travel straight ahead to end at Double Kwik. Spectators are encouraged to watch on Main Street.

Be creative and sign your float up today! Prizes are as follows:

- First Place – \$700.
- Second Place – \$500.
- Third Place – \$300.

Per West Liberty Police Department, ATV's and horses will not be permitted in the parade.

A full slate of activities is also on tap leading up to the parade on Dec. 7, including a costumed 5K and a 2.5K Fun Walk, Holiday Market, Selfies with Santa, ice skating, cos-

See **PARADE**, Page 3

WLF D toy drive is set Dec. 7 for kids affected by Helene

Items can be dropped off at WLF D firehouse on Saturday, Dec. 7th

West Liberty Fire Department (WLF D) will be hosting a Mountain Christmas Mission toy and gift donation drive for children impacted by Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Department members will be accepting donations for new toys, children's books, and blankets to give to the Mountain Mule Packer Ranch to be distributed to those in need.

Mountain Mule Packer Ranch – a tactical mule packing training group specializing in extreme terrain pack animal supply chains – has been assisting those affected by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina and Tennessee since September.

Donations can be dropped off at the West Liberty Fire Department firehouse, 826 Main

See **TOYS**, Page 3

New Vision Recovery Ctr. Raises Money For Cops For Kids



Residents and employees of New Vision Recovery Center in West Liberty recently picked up garbage along 15.11 miles of Morgan County roads to raise funds for the local Cops For Kids organization's annual Christmas gift program. The group earned \$100 per mile for up to 10 miles of road. A total of \$1,000 was paid to Morgan County Cops For Kids through a state litter abatement grant. Pictured in the back row are Ashley Roseberry, Mary Lou Cantrell LLP, Benjamin Connors, Clyde "CJ" Sexton, Randall "Scott" Spencer, Harold "Dusty" Landsaw, Christopher Brashears, Richard Tolson, Dakota Keeton, Amy Wright, Samantha McDowell and Sherry Adkins. On the front row are Jessica Minix, Amanda Nichols, Dottie (house dog), Jeremy Patton and Paula Faulkner. (Photo courtesy of Lowell Adkins)

Auditor releases Agreed-Upon Procedures engagement of Morgan County Clerk's Office

EDITOR'S NOTE
The Courier spoke on Nov. 18 with County Clerk Randy Williams regarding findings in the Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement report recently released by Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts Allison Ball.

Williams noted that his responses are not included in the report because he was not present during the auditing process. "The only variances were due to some budget line items being mis-coded," Williams said. "The reason my excess fees check to the fiscal court was late was because I still had uncleared transactions at that time."

The clerk indicated that the audit "went well," making him eligible for another AUP audit

next year. The following press release outlines the AUP process and also includes the findings referenced above by Williams.

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball recently released the 2023 agreed-upon procedures engagement of Morgan County Clerk Randy Williams. State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

In 2018 the Kentucky General Assembly, following a recommendation by the State Auditor, passed legislation that allows county sheriffs and clerks that met certain criteria to apply for an Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement

See **CLERK**, Page 3

Cops For Kids accepting letters thru Dec. 9th

Morgan County Cops for Kids is seeking donations for the 2024 year.

Since 2007, the Morgan County Cops for Kids, a non-profit local charity, has been taking up donations and conducting fundraisers to provide gifts and a dinner to ensure that Morgan County's youth have a wonderful Christmas. Our organization is comprised of emergency service personnel and their friends & families.

100% of gifts bought this year will be from donations!!

If your business would like to make a monetary donation please mail it to Cops for Kids, P.O. Box 1026, West Liberty, KY 41472.

We are accepting letters now for the Cops for Kids charity until Dec. 9. If you

See **PROGRAM**, Page 3

Grand jury indicts 12 people in recent court session

Among those are man who electrocuted himself at ARH, Ezel man accused of shooting brother-in-law

By **Miranda M. Cantrell**

The Morgan Circuit Court Grand Jury recently indicted 12 people in multiple cases that were previous noted in the Courier.

Among those indicted was Timothy Sizemore, 28, of Sandy Hook, who authorities allege had ingested methamphetamine in Elliott County on Oct. 13 prior being transported to Morgan County ARH for potential overdose monitoring.

While at the hospital, Sizemore went outside and crawled in a three-phase panel electrical box and subsequently electrocuted himself in addition to causing a 24-hour power outage at the facility.

Sizemore – who received burns on 40 percent of his body from the electrocution – was charged with several offenses as a result of the incident.

Hershell Manns, 69, of Ezel, was also indicted for an

Oct. 13 incident in which he allegedly shot his brother-in-law and neighbor, Patrick Brown, 57, in the leg.

Sheriff Greg Motley confirmed to the Courier that the incident stemmed from "civil litigation" involving Manns and Brown as noted in E-911 transcripts.

The following is a complete listing of all indictments:

- 1.) Timothy Sizemore, 28, of Sandy Hook, Ky. – Criminal mischief (first degree; tampering with operations of a key infrastructure asset of Morgan County ARH hospital), public intoxication, trespassing upon key infrastructure assets (first offense; Morgan County ARH hospital).
- 2.) Jessie Wright, 50, of West Liberty, Ky. – Possession of firearm by convicted felon.
- 3.) Hershell Manns, 69, of Ezel, Ky. – Assault (first

See **INDICTED**, Page 3

Auditor releases Agreed-Upon Procedures engagement of Morgan County Sheriff's Ofc.

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball released the 2023 agreed-upon procedures engagement of Morgan County Sheriff Greg Motley. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff.

In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

In 2018 the Kentucky General Assembly, following a recommendation by the State Auditor, passed legislation that allows county sheriffs and clerks that met certain criteria to apply for an Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement in lieu of an audit of their fee

account. The intent of the change, which became effective in July 2018, was to reduce audit costs for sheriffs and clerks that have a history of clean audits, while still maintaining an appropriate level of accountability.

The Morgan County Sheriff applied for and received approval from the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to obtain an AUP engagement for calendar year 2023 in accordance with KRS 43.070(1)(c).

AUP reports present the procedures performed and the results of those procedures, called findings. Auditors performed the procedures, which were agreed to by the Morgan County Sheriff, on receipts and disbursements, excess fees,

See **SHERIFF**, Page 3




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