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County Judge-Executive Luke King Speaks to Chamber members about funding the Splash Pad.

That is the stage used by the bluegrass festival and other events at Joseph Schickel Park.

She said installation and painting of the concrete that isn't covered by the bricks would likely cost less than \$500, and would be done by her committee members. Presently that account has over \$1,000 in it.

The members were generally an agreement with the proposal and it awaits City approval for implementation.

Speakers at the meeting were County Judge-Executive Luke King and Citizens Bank of Cumberland County Vice President Matt Hurt.

Hurt spoke about the need to keep an eye on your credit report, and to watch for scams and swindles on your computer, tablet and phone.

He said that being dubious about any emails or texts you receive, as well as monitoring your credit report for inconsistencies is the basics of good financial practices.

King described the

situation with regard to the "splash pad" and gave the history of how the issue arose.

He said the project was brought as a top priority for the youth by the civics club at Cumberland County high school. He added that he and the magistrates have committed to pursuing a splash pad.

King explained that this was not a project for the monies raised by the insurance premium tax, but rather a project with funds earmarked from corpse of engineers funds, \$43K; bank interest on deposit, \$84K; rental revenue, \$7K; unspent COVID recovery (ARPA) funds, \$27K; unfilled worker salary, \$27K; and \$12K in money not spent on county interns after that program has been funded by the state.

He went on to say that the project will be rebid in October with a May 15 opening deadline, 2026.

When questioned about the cost of not accepting the bid this year for \$199,270, he said there is some concern,

but theat bid was for a project which would have been completed this fall.

When the issue of the tornado shelters was brought up he said it was true that the county received funds, based on bids of \$120,000 for two storm shelters, but by the time construction began the cost was \$305,000 for one shelter. He clarified that that multi-year delay was due to Covid.

Chamber President Liza Tucker and Partners with Pride coordinator Amy Morgan said \$30,000 in state grant funds are in-hand to finish the bridge and sidewalk in the parking lot beside the walking track on Upper River Street.

Tucker reminded members that:

- April 22 "Spring in the Alley" will be hosted adjacent to the square beside the country peddler
- May 2 "First Friday" will be on the Square.
- May 6 at noon is the next chamber Board of Directors meeting.

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University of Kentucky Extension Agency, invited all the members of the council to a community educational forum planned for 4pm May 20 at the Veterans Memorial Community

Center. He said the event will be an interactive meeting with researchers from the University of Kentucky who have studied and surveyed the area with a view

to improving the local economy. He asked that everyone who has any interest in improving Cumberland county come to the meeting.

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\$78,909 of the Agency's money in Frankfort has been approved for expenditure completing the phase one work at the Cumberland River Industrial Park (CRIP).

The board approved payment of the Kentucky Association of Economic Development's membership dues, \$375 per year.

They also approved approximately \$10,000 for the provider building and maintaining www.explorercumberlandcounty.com.

That price was almost \$5,000 lower than the previous year, with the termination of an not presently needed service.

The board approved \$3,000 for an online database system, Bluedot, what will improve local record-keeping and the website's business directory.

The intention is to improve the web-service for the IDA, tourism and the chamber, all of which share the cost of the services.

Wilson said that Johnson Contracting has told Precision Engineering, the authorities engineering company, that they will be working on completing phase one in the coming weeks, weather permitting.

The subject brought up for future consideration is whether to use grant funds held in Frankfort in the future for paying off the mortgage on the CRIP, or continuing to pay the mortgage and use the excess to pay for further improvements to the park.

Tri-County Electric Invites You to Our Annual Meeting

Please join your friends and neighbors for a fun evening at Tri-County Electric's Annual Meeting of the members on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at Gamaliel Elementary School, located at 320 West Main Street, Gamaliel, Kentucky. Doors will open for registration at 5:00 p.m. As a rural electric cooperative, the annual meeting is an opportunity to meet with our member-owners to review the activities of the cooperative over the past year and conduct business properly presented to the members.

This year's annual meeting will return to

a more traditional format, where all members are invited to gather at one location to enjoy refreshments, receive a registration gift and be entered in the drawing for door prizes, in addition to the business portion of the meeting. Youth activities include bucket truck rides, safety trailer demonstrations, a Caricaturist, and free t-shirts. We are also excited to announce that the "Luggnatts", a bluegrass band from Lafayette, Tennessee, will provide entertainment following the business meeting.

One lucky member will be drawn to win \$100 when the business meeting begins

at 6:30 p.m. Drawings will be held for additional prizes including the \$1,000 Grand Prize!

Only Tri-County Electric members are eligible for prizes. If you need to make changes or are unsure whether your membership is in your name or is a joint membership, please contact your local Tri-County Electric office prior to the meeting.

We hope you will join us on Thursday May 1st for an evening of fun and fellowship as we celebrate the accomplishments of Tri-County Electric ---- Your Electric Cooperative!

Man Guilty of Crimes Against Children and Family Dog

From McGOFFIN County

Attorney General Russell Coleman announced today action from the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Unit resulted in a 10-year prison sentence for an eastern Kentucky man charged with crimes against children and animals.

In a Magoffin County courtroom Thursday, Kent Simpkins, 43, was sentenced for seven felony counts. He previously pleaded guilty to one count of Distribution of Matter Portraying a Sexual Performance by a Minor under 12 (Class C Felony), three counts of Possession of Matter Portraying a Sexual Performance by a Minor under 12 (Class C Felony), two counts of Possession of Matter Portraying a Sexual Performance by a Minor

over 12 (Class D Felony), and one count of a Sexual Crime Against an Animal (Class D Felony).

Following a cyber tip to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), law enforcement searched Simpkins' IP address and social media last year. They found multiple images of minors involved in sexual acts, numerous animal sex videos and a video of Simpkins involved in a sexual act with the family's dog.

In addition to the 10-year sentence, Simpkins, of Salyersville, will be a lifetime registrant on the Kentucky Sex Offender Registry and receive five years of post-incarceration supervision.

"This predator was already far down a dangerous path of criminal



Kent Simpkins

activity. We are grateful to the team of detectives and prosecutors whose dedicated efforts will ensure this man is kept far away from children," said Attorney General Coleman.

The Kentucky State Police Electronic Crimes Branch investigated the case. Assistant Attorney General Lindsey Studebaker prosecuted the case on behalf of the Commonwealth.

LEGAL NOTICE REGARDING THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that because of an increase in the cost of water purchased from the City of Burkesville, the Cumberland County Water District will increase its rates for services effective April 15, 2025. An application requesting the proposed rates was filed with the Kentucky Public Service Commission on March 19, 2025 to increase rates as follows:

	Existing Rates	Proposed Rates	Increase (\$)	Increase (%)
<u>5/8-Inch x 3/4-Inch Meter:</u>				
First 2,000 gallons	\$33.67 Minimum Bill	\$34.63 Minimum Bill	\$0.96	2.85%
Next 3,000 gallons	\$0.00912 per gallon	\$0.00960 per gallon	\$0.00048	5.26%
Next 5,000 gallons	\$0.00801 per gallon	\$0.00849 per gallon	\$0.00048	5.99%
Over 10,000 gallons	\$0.00687 per gallon	\$0.00735 per gallon	\$0.00048	6.99%
<u>1-Inch Meter:</u>				
First 5,000 gallons	\$61.38 Minimum Bill	\$63.78 Minimum Bill	\$2.40	3.91%
Next 5,000 gallons	\$0.00801 per gallon	\$0.00849 per gallon	\$0.00048	5.99%
Over 10,000 gallons	\$0.00687 per gallon	\$0.00735 per gallon	\$0.00048	6.99%
<u>1 1/2-Inch Meter:</u>				
First 12,500 gallons	\$118.22 Minimum Bill	\$124.22 Minimum Bill	\$6.00	5.08%
Over 12,500 gallons	\$0.00687 per gallon	\$0.00735 per gallon	\$0.00048	6.99%
<u>2-Inch Meter:</u>				
First 25,000 gallons	\$204.15 Minimum Bill	\$216.15 Minimum Bill	\$12.00	5.87%
Over 25,000 gallons	\$0.00687 per gallon	\$0.00735 per gallon	\$0.00048	6.99%
<u>Dale Hollow State Park:</u>				
First 300,000 gallons	\$2,094.56 Minimum Bill	\$2,238.56 Minimum Bill	\$144.00	3.99%
Over 300,000 gallons	\$0.00687 per gallon	\$0.00735 per gallon	\$0.00048	6.99%

As noted above, based on the increased cost of water from City of Burkesville, all rates will increase \$0.48 per 1,000 gallons. The monthly bill for a customer using an average of 4,205 gallons of water each month will increase from \$53.78 to \$55.80. This is an increase of \$2.02 or 3.76%.

The charges/rates contained in this notice are the charges/rates proposed by the Cumberland County Water District. However, the Public Service Commission may order charges/rates to be charged that differ from these proposed charges/rates. Such action may result in charges/rates for consumers other than the charges/rates detailed in this notice.

Any person may examine this application at the offices of the Cumberland County Water District office located at 133 Lower River Street, Burkesville, Ky 42717. In addition, any 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>. Any comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission through its website or by mail to Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602. The Public Service Commission can also be contacted at 502-564-3940.

This notice is published pursuant to 807 KAR 5:068 - Purchased Water Adjustment for Water Districts and Water Associations.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
s/ Troy Norris, Chairman