

# Editorial

## THE LARUE COUNTY HERALD NEWS

Established 1885  
www.laruecountyherald.com



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Published Wednesday by  
the LaRue County Herald  
News, 40 Shawnee Dr.,  
Hodgenville, KY, 42748.

Periodicals postage paid  
at Hodgenville Post Office,  
Hodgenville, KY, 42748

### POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:  
THE LARUE COUNTY  
HERALD NEWS  
40 SHAWNEE DR.  
HODGENVILLE, KY  
42748



### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

#### LARUE COUNTY AND

#### SURROUNDING TOWNS

##### EZ PAY

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| One Year     | \$39.21 |
| Six Months   | \$24.37 |
| Three months | \$13.77 |

##### REGULAR PAY

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| One Year     | \$44.51 |
| Six Months   | \$26.49 |
| Three months | \$15.89 |

#### ELSEWHERE IN KENTUCKY

##### EZ PAY

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| One Year     | \$55.11 |
| Six Months   | \$32.85 |
| Three Months | \$19.07 |

##### REGULAR PAY

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| One Year     | \$60.41 |
| Six Months   | \$34.97 |
| Three Months | \$21.19 |

#### OUT OF STATE

##### EZ PAY

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| One Year     | \$64.99 |
| Six Months   | \$37.99 |
| Three Months | \$22.99 |

##### REGULAR PAY

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| One Year     | \$69.99 |
| Six Months   | \$39.99 |
| Three Months | \$24.99 |

#### ONLINE ACCESS ONLY

##### EZ PAY

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| One Year     | \$39.21 |
| Six Months   | \$24.37 |
| Three Months | \$13.77 |

##### REGULAR PAY

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| One Year     | \$44.51 |
| Six Months   | \$26.49 |
| Three Months | \$15.89 |

— Effective January 1, 2023

## SHOCKING Journalism

### I got tased so you don't have to

BY VICTORIA COX  
EDITOR

Have you ever felt the full force of 50,000 volts of electricity surging through your body? Like most people, my answer used to be no — until I voluntarily agreed to be tased at the LaRue County Detention Center last month.

I want to preface this with the question I get asked the most — no, I have not gone crazy. Clueless about some of the finer details of how a taser works, definitely, but I did ultimately go into it willing. To understand why I did so, you must first know a few things about me.

As a journalist, it is my belief that I must first understand a topic before I can write about it. I mean, how I can properly explain something to you if I don't actually know what I'm talking about? This is typically carried out by making numerous phone calls, asking a lot of questions and having our archives and Google as a best friend. Luckily for all of us, I'm a naturally nosey person who very much enjoys all of the above.

While these avenues are great ways to gather information, I've also learned that first-hand experience can be as good — if not better — in some cases. It's very easy to read or hear about something, but truly understanding is a different beast entirely. And, because I want to make sure I am always doing right by the community, I use this as a guiding principle for everything I do.

Gaining this first-hand experience has occurred in many ways. It's happened by utilizing the Elizabethtown Police Department's "Response to Resistance Simulator" and receiving a reality check regarding the threats that can confront local law enforcement, joining the LaRue County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership LaRue class and spending nine months traveling around the county learning about the elements that make this community what is it, and sitting in the gallery of the LaRue County Courthouse for four days straight to properly cover the county's first murder trial in 20 years. It's been through visiting local farms and discovering how their operations thrive, riding along with HPD Chief James Richardson as he patrolled on New Year's Eve, and helping refurbish two bathrooms attached to the old pool house at LaRue County Parks and Recreation.

In November of 2024, I was allowed to join The LaRue County Detention Center for their annual firearm recertification. I'd like to think the fact that I attentively sat through the two-hour presentation and then hit the target with 76% accuracy — in the rain and as my second ever time holding a gun — is the reason I was invited to join them for taser certification.

When I gave LCDC Chief Deputy Jailer

Jamie Williams my enthusiastic yes, I was more clueless than I'd like to admit regarding how a taser actually works. I did not know the taser has barbs that penetrate the skin, that it induces complete neuromuscular incapacitation, or that I'd be walking with a limp on the side I was shot for the next two days. Hindsight is indeed 20/20.

Arriving at the jail on the morning of Wednesday, May 28, I was nervous, but also blissfully unaware. Unfortunately for me, as my awareness increased, so, too, did my nerves. After sitting through a 212-slide, six-hour presentation and then having the opportunity to shoot the taser myself, I was so apprehensive that the only thing that kept me in the training room was the fact that I was locked inside a jail with no key.

Overall, I can personally attest that being tased is not fun. And, to be honest, I'm not sure which was the worst part: the anticipation of the hit as I stood with my back to Jamie and waited to hear, "Taser, taser, taser"; being stabbed in the lower back and bottom with fishhook-like barbs; the five seconds of intense pain and inability to move as 50,000 volts of electricity surged through my whole body; having said fishhook-like barbs subsequently removed; not being able to stand for five minutes because my legs had turned into jelly; or the body aches and limp I had for two days afterwards.

Okay, that's a lie — the actual tasing part was definitely the worst part, but everything else is still a close second.

I want to stress the fact that being tased was voluntary, albeit not the smartest decision I've ever made. Jamie and LCDC Jailer Jody Perry gave me every chance available to back out, but I persevered. I wanted to have the first-hand experience of being tased so that when I'm tasked with writing about it in the future, I truly comprehend the gravity of the situation. I wanted to continue expanding my understanding of just how much training and knowledge members of law enforcement must always carry with them to ensure the safety of the entire community. And, as a bonus, I can now brag that I survived being tased.

In all seriousness, this experience is just one of the many avenues I utilize to help me — and ultimately our readers — better understand what happens in this community. First-hand exposure helps me to ask better questions, recognize key details, and report with greater accuracy and empathy. That said, I will most definitely be leaving the pepper spray training to someone else — every journalist needs boundaries, and one intense lesson was more than enough for me.

## Congress must act to help postmaster general pull USPS back from brink

The United States Postal Service is on the brink of a self-induced collapse. The failed policies of the Delivering for America Plan have driven away customers through a combination of sky-high rate increases and degraded service. David Steiner, who will take over as Postmaster General on July 14, has a tough job to do and little time to do it with some estimates indicating the USPS could be insolvent as soon as 2028.

Congress has a key role to play in helping him right the ship but must get off the sidelines and act. A useful step occurred earlier this week with a hearing before the House Oversight Subcommittee on Government Operations. The National Newspaper Association (NNA) provided a statement for the hearing that lays out key actions Congress can take to help restore the USPS.

We emphasized that NNA members serve their communities, providing news on local events and civic matters that are not covered anywhere else, and that they depend on the USPS to get their papers to subscribers. The USPS — and by extension the small businesses in the communities they serve — faces an immediate and existential crisis. We urge Congress to act swiftly and compel meaningful reform at the USPS.

Here are three actions Congress can take right now to get the USPS back on track and keep commerce in America moving:

Demand the USPS Board halt the Delivering for America Plan including the large rate increase planned for July 13. This increase, far above the rate of inflation will only deepen the hole and ties the hands of incoming Postmaster General David Steiner, who should have the opportunity to assess the situation. The same holds true for the network consolidations and service cuts. Every customer that is lost through these increases and service reductions is one less Steiner can rely on in the future.

Modernize and empower the USPS regulator. Effective checks and balances are needed to keep the USPS on track. Congress needs to update and modernize the postal regulatory process to better safeguard against excessive rates and poor service by passing H.R. 3004, The USPS SERVES US Act.

Measure newspaper costs accurately. Congress should compel accurate measurement of newspaper service and hold the USPS accountable for maintaining and improving service quality by enacting H.R. 2098/S.1002, the Deliver for Democracy Act

These are all common sense steps Congress can take to address what has been clearly a failed approach by USPS management. Steiner has a huge job ahead of him and will need all the help he can get.

Congress must act now to make sure the nation's next Postmaster General is not the last one.



MARTA  
**DIAZ**  
**ASZKENAZY**

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A5

### PUBLIC LIBRARY —

**270-358-3851**

**Wednesday, June 25:**

Offsite Book Club at 6 p.m. @ Kayla's Fill-Up Station. Adults only.

**Thursday, June 26:** Coffee

for Veterans at 10 a.m. Spouses and partners welcome.

Storytime at 1:30 p.m. For children under 5.

No Bake Recipe: Protein Balls at 3:30 p.m. Family event, call to register.

Tails & Tatas Breast Cancer Awareness at 5:30 p.m.

**Friday, June 27:** Magic the Gathering at 2 p.m. For grade school through high school students.

Rose Message Boards at 3 p.m. Teens and adults call to register.

### MEETINGS

#### LaRue County Fiscal Court Public Hearing

The LaRue County Fiscal Court will host a public meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 26 at the LaRue County Courthouse, located at 209 W. High St., Hodgenville. The trial-type meeting is concerning the request to rezone over 230 acres of land along Tonieville Road from A1, agriculture, to I2, heavy industry. The court will accept evidence from any individual in attendance, whether in support or opposition of the matter, before the final rezoning vote is conducted.

#### LaRue County Fiscal Court

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LaRue County Fiscal Court is Tuesday, July 8 at 9 a.m.

#### Hodgenville City Council

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Hodgenville City Council will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 14.

#### LaRue County Board of Education

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LaRue County Board of Education will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 21.

#### Celebrate Recovery

Held every Thursday evening from 6-8 p.m. at Ovesen Heights Baptist Church located at 1604 Bardstown Road, Hodgenville. For more information, call 270-735-5005.

#### Lions Club

The Hodgenville Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. at El Acapulco, 195 Lee Oak

Drive, Hodgenville. Come out and learn more about the Lions Club or call Linda Henry at 502-888-9256 or email lionlindahenry@yahoo.com for more information.

### NARFE

The next monthly meeting of Elizabethtown chapter of National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will be July 7. The speaker is Mike Anders from the Greater Kentucky and Southern Indiana Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Meetings begin at 11AM in the Central Kentucky Community Hall located at 200 Jim Owen Dr., Elizabethtown. POC is Sharon Crady 270-832-8857.

### RECYCLING

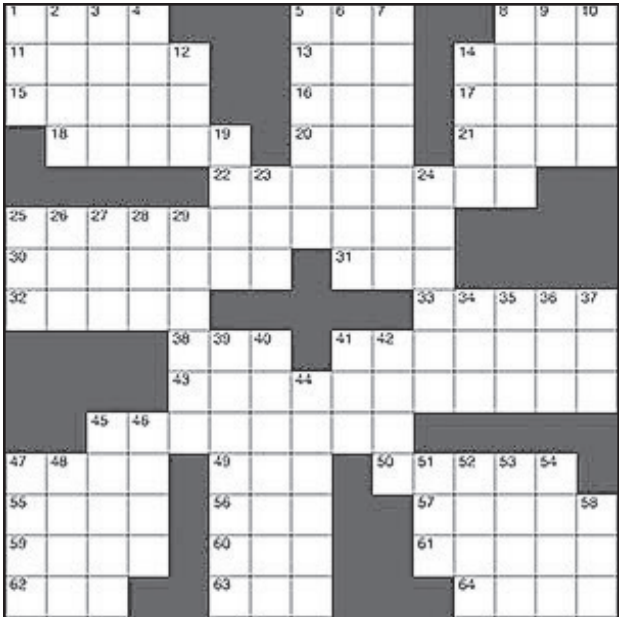
#### Glass Recycling

Drop off location is the LaRue County Road Department (across from the

LC High School). Accepting clear, green, brown, blue, broken china and ceramics; no window glass is accepted. The next date is July 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. FMI call Jill Gray at 270-234-6619.

Recycling trailers are in the following locations for the community's use. In Hodgenville — LaRue County Courthouse lower parking lot, 209 West High Street Hodgenville; in Buffalo — Buffalo Fire Department — 2619 Greensburg Rd.; and in Magnolia — Old School Market — 9050 New Jackson Hwy. Contact Jill Gray at 270-234-6619 with any questions.

If you have an event you would like to share, bring it to our office located at 40 Shawnee Drive in Hodgenville, leave it in our outside drop box, or email editor@laruecountyherald.com.



#### CLUES ACROSS

- Computer manufacturer
- Noted space station
- Kurt Russell film "Captain"
- Automaton
- Everyone has one
- Incline from the vertical
- Fights
- Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
- Finishes to store
- Places to find things
- Dutch painter Gerard \_\_\_
- Smaller quantity
- There's a North, South and Central of these
- In an early way
- More spacious
- Short-term memory
- One who possesses
- Sesame
- Forbid
- A way to explain
- Not around
- Evoke or suggest
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Dekameter
- Fencing sword
- "Luther" actor Idris
- Affirmative (slang)
- Afflicted
- One point north of northeast
- Born of
- Arabic name
- Hong Kong food stall: \_\_\_ pai dong
- Not the start
- Post

#### CLUES DOWN

- Creative expression
- Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
- City in ancient Syria
- College army
- More disturbed
- Pays no attention to
- Restored
- Competitions
- Lyric poems
- Famed American lawman
- Expression of disappointment
- Scars
- Satisfy
- Central European river
- Brass instrument
- One who gets paid to perform
- Propel with oars
- Long period of time
- Woman (French)
- Type of plane
- Pitching stat
- Pointed end of a pen
- Pro sports league
- Body part
- Inoffensive
- Fellowish cotton cloth
- Feline
- Does not tell the truth
- Set out to attract
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- Repair
- Genus of flowering plants
- Tributary of the High Rhine
- Prejudice
- C. European river
- Restrain
- Father