



Brennan Ison with two of the new concrete tee markers he made and placed on the golf course at Pleasant Valley Country Club..

## Student’s community project pjt. aids local country club

In the summer of 2024 Brennan Ison, then an incoming Senior at Morehead State University majoring in Public History and minoring in Integrated Science was awarded an internship at the Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky housed at the Hazard Community and Technical College at Hazard KY. Brennan took the internship as a means of pursuing his goal of working at an air and space museum and gaining needed on the job skills and experience.

The Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky is a space-based learning environment founded in 1999 as part of the Challenger Center Network, which today boasts over 40 centers around the world. The Hazard KY Center was the first center outside a major city, and the first to serve a totally rural area. With over 23 years of missions, summer programs, school outreach, and other events, the Centers’ mission is to bring hands-on STEAM education to students in Eastern Kentucky.

The Challenger Learning Center in cooperation with the

University of the Cumberlands participated in the Partners for Rural Impact “learn and earn” summer internship program in the summer of 2024. Participates in this program had to develop their own volunteer community service project, as part of their internship. When Brennan was looking for a project, he thought about how much his grandfather, the late Paul Ison, enjoyed playing golf at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in West Liberty. Paul passed away in June of 2023. Brennan saw the need for new tee markers for the golf course because the existing ones had gotten old and were deteriorating. Brennan decided to make all the markers by hand and painted them their respective colors indication yardage. He then set all the markers on the course in the Fall of 2024.

Brennan would like to thank the management and the board of directors of the Pleasant ValleyCountry Club for allowing him to volunteer and complete his community service project.

## Grand Jury hands down 19 indictments against 17 ppl in recent session

The Morgan Circuit Court Grand Jury handed down 19 indictments against 17 people in a recent court session:

1.) Justin Jones, 33, of Clearfield, Ky. – Tampering with physical evidence, public intoxication (controlled substance), possession of a controlled substance (second degree).

2.) Sonny J. Ratliff, 42, Hazel Green, Ky. – Prohibited use of an electronic communications system to procure a minor to commit a sexual offense, sexual crimes against animals.

3.) Andrew Wolfenbarger, 36, of West Liberty, Ky. – Sexual abuse (first degree; juvenile under 16), rape (third degree; juvenile under 16).

4.) Ethan Robbins, 27, of West Liberty, Ky. – Flagrant non-support.

5.) Daniel Whitt, 43, of Morehead, Ky. – Possession of a controlled substance (first degree; methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia (buy/possess), operating a motor vehicle under the influence (third degree; controlled substance), driving with suspended license.

6.) Justin Jones, 33, of Clearfield, Ky. – Possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, wanton endangerment (first degree), possession of a controlled substance (Schedule IV or V narcotic drug).

7.) Amber Oliver, 31, of Frankfort, Ky. – Possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance (first degree, first offense; opiates).

8.) Travis Plummer #306592, 30, Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex Inmate – Promoting contraband (first degree drugs), persistent felony offender (second degree).

9.) Xavier Conwell #313261, 29, Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex Inmate – Assault (third degree), persistent felony offender (second degree).

10.) Jennifer Cantrell, 45, of West Liberty, Ky. – Possession of marijuana, assault (second degree domestic violence).

11.) Dakota C. Adkins, 30, of West Liberty, Ky. – Fraudulent insurance acts causing a loss of more than \$500 but less than \$10,000.

12.) Timmy Ray Keeton, 56, of West Liberty, Ky – Rape (third degree; three counts), incest (third degree; three counts), sexual abuse (first degree; two counts).

13.) Jennifer Cantrell, 45, West Liberty, Ky. – Extreme wanton endangerment (first degree).

14.) Zachary S. Prater, 37, of West Liberty, Ky. – Receiving stolen property over \$1,000.

15.) Deborah Burgett, 58, of West Liberty, Ky. – trafficking in a controlled substance (first degree, first offense; methamphetamine), persistent felony offender (first degree).

16.) Holly Perkins, 67, of Morehead, Ky. – Tampering with physical evidence, theft by unlawful taking under \$1,000, criminal trespass (third degree).

17.) Rodney Ferguson, 33, of West Liberty, Ky. – Criminal mischief (first degree).

18.) Charles Adkins, 38, of West Liberty, Ky. – Possession of a controlled substance (first degree, first offense; heroin), drug paraphernalia (buy/possess).

19.) Robert Adams, 44, of West Liberty, Ky. – Fleeing and evading police (first degree; on foot), menacing.

**EDITOR’S NOTE**  
*An indictment is not proof of guilt, but merely an allegation that a crime has been committed.*

**Ezel student at UK inducted by Kappa Phi Honor Society**  
BATON ROUGE, La. — Elijah O’Quinn of Ezel, Kentucky, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at the University of Kentucky.

O’Quinn is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership.

## Court ...

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Jim Gazay – who has noted on multiple occasions that the court is required to fulfill the previous administration’s obligation – told the Courier that he hopes the project will be completed for an official opening on July 4.

The splash pad will be on property behind the Wellness Center with the original location being changed so as to not interfere with youth soccer activities.

In other news, the court approved a \$32,500 settlement payment to Masonry Builders of Kentucky following the resolution of a long-standing lawsuit against the county dating back to 2016.

Masonry Builders of Kentucky was initially seeking \$106,77.76 for masonry work done at the Morgan County Wellness Center in 2013.

Additionally, court members also approved a payment of \$11,944.25 to local attorney Steve O’Connor and Landrum & Shouse, LLP, for their mediation services related to the lawsuit.

O’Connor was hired to represent the county in the matter in 2016 during the administration of former Judge Executive Stanley Franklin.

Judge Gazay presented another resolution to apply for a federal Abandoned Land Mines grant to relocate the transfer station to county garbage property on Hwy. 172.

The judge executive had announced in recent months that an application that was previously submitted last year had been rejected.

“I am very optimistic that we have a stronger case and a chance to secure the \$2 million for a new solid waste transfer station,” Gazay told the Courier on April 11. “I believe we are poised to make a leap toward a cleaner and more sustainable future for our county.”

The court unanimously approved the grant application resolution, which states that officials will apply for up to \$2 million in funding.

The following items were also approved:

- A contract for the Fiscal Year 2025 Search and Rescue Aid fund award of \$16,896.74. (These funds were awarded by Kentucky Emergency Management officials with the fiscal court serving as a pass-through agency.)
- Changes to the budgeted chart of accounts related to the previously-mentioned settlement payment to Masonry Builders of Kentucky as presented by County Treasurer Shenea Easterling.
- Budget Transfer #9 totaling \$55,999.25.
- The first reading of Budget Amendment #9 in the amount of \$16,896.74 for the previously-mentioned Search and Rescue grant.
- A payment of \$4,961 to HMC for the contractor’s quarterly agreement regarding the judicial center. (Judge Gazay said this payment would be reimbursed by the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court members entered into a closed session regarding real state and returned to open session with no action taken.

**Additional Information**

For additional information regarding Morgan County Fiscal Court activities, contact Judge Executive Jim Gazay at 743-3897 or visit his office in the Morgan County Wellness Center on Route 7.

## Easter ...

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public is invited to come out and support the youth of our community!

Following the Pancake Flip, the annual Kiwanis Club Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Old Mill Park with hunts for two age groups:

- **1 p.m. – Ages 2 to 5.**
- **1:15 p.m. – Ages 6 to 10.**

Kiwanian Brenda Morgan told the Courier that Morgan County ARH will be assisting club members with this year’s easter egg hunt, which will also include several prizes from donated by local businesses.

Everyone is invited to join the West Liberty Kiwanis Club for these special events!

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**



**New DAV Officers Are Sworn In At April Meeting**

At the April meeting of DAV Chapter 132, Past Commander Brown administered the oath of office to the chapter’s new officers. From left to right are: Chaplain Woody Ball, Sergeant of Arms Bobby Jones, 1st Junior Vice Garry Banks, Junior Vice Darlene Crouch, Commander Jerry Cable, Senior Vice Raleigh Jenkins, 1st Senior Vice Johnny Fulks, and Past Commander/ Treasurer Brown. Members are yrged to help them have a good year by attending meetings and volunteering for committee work.

## Events ...

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At noon there will be a short ecumenical “Good Friday” service in the sanctuary, lasting about 30 minutes. Come as you are. Anyone and everyone is welcome - you do not need to be part of “Carry the Cross.” In fact, most who attend this worship service are not part of the march thru town. Brother Danny Collins of the Salem Christian Church will be the guest speaker for the service.

Later on Good Friday evening, at 7:00 pm, the church choir will lead a very special service of scripture and song in the sanctuary on the theme of “The Seven Last Words from the Cross.” Special music by the choir, congregational singing and the Scriptures that highlight Jesus’ seven last sayings while he was on the cross will tell the story of what happened on Calvary on Good Friday.

Finally, on Easter Sunday (April 20), there will be a Sunrise Service at 7:00 am on the helipad at the Morgan County Appalachian Regional Hospital overlooking West Liberty. The men of the church then cook Easter Sunday breakfast for the congregation, served at 9:30 am. Easter Sunday worship is at 11:00 am in the sanctuary, followed by the children’s Easter Egg hunt after church.

The West Liberty Methodist Church and Pastor Jamie Brunk invite you to one or more of these special Holy Week events. West Liberty Methodist is the white brick church on the corner of Prestonsburg and Main Streets in the middle of town.

Call Jamie at 606-438-6137 for more information. Especially if you do not have a church home, come and be part of this Christian fellowship. If you already have a church home, we encourage you to be faithful in your attendance and service at your home church.

from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The show exhibition artwork from the following students:

Alexis Banks, James Beagle, Jacob Cantrell, Willow Caperton, Perry Christie, Addison Conkright, Maddi Conley , Molly Cooley, Danielle Davis, Miracle Davis, Adyson Day, Elijah Dunn, Savannah Fairchild, Malea Gevedon, Mersin Gomez, Christy Groce, Karsyn Hamm, Anthony Helton, Kadon Hittepole, Landen W. Hoskins, Willow Jones, Cheyenne Keeton, Kenna Kidd, Reagan Kidd, Annabelle King, Cynthia Lewis, Payton Lewis, Abigail McPherson, Madison Miller, Sarah Peyton, Trenton Prater, Dakota Rice, Luke Schwab, Renee Trahan, Brianna Watson, Mia Wright and Sierra Yocum.

## Art ...

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## W.L. Homemakers hold monthly mtg. on March 13th

The West Liberty Homemakers Club met Thursday, March 13, at Pleasant Valley Country Club.

The meeting was called to order by Club President Sharon Lykins. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming out to the meeting.

The devotion was given by reading a poem entitled “Mountains To Climb.”



**DAV Donation For Little League**

DAV Chapter 132 was honored to donate to the Morgan County Little League Baseball program. Pictured left to right are Veteran and softball manager Walker Crase, President Mark Johnson, DAV Adjutant Emily Elam, and scorekeeper Brad Johnson.

## News Of Record

**PROPERTY TRANSFERS**

- Donald Lyles and Jewlia Lyles to The Pretty Ridge Co. Inc. – Land with property address 40 Brushy Fork Rd., West Liberty, Ky. \$65,000.
- Shannon Todd Patrick and Deanna Renee Motts to Joshua Medcoff and Melynda Medcoff – 2 tracts near Caney on Brushy Fork with property address 9999 Brushy Fork Rd. a/k/a 77 Brushy Fork Rd., West Liberty, Ky. \$216,200.
- Jerry Lindon and Leslie Lindon to Commonwealth of Kentucky –2 tracts along 2498 approximately 0.39 mile southwest West Liberty. \$50,000.

- Melloyd Conway and Rhonda to Ruby Daniels – Land beginning at a steel stake on the north side of Laurel Fork and at property line of Ernest P. Lewis. \$7,000.

**CIRCUIT COURT**

New civil suits – Commonwealth Credit Union vs. Tonia Sue Cantrell, April 4; Mariner Finance LLC vs. Jeffery Johnson, April 9; Mariner Finance LLC vs. Alice Eldridge et al, April 10; Onemain Financial Group, LLC vs. Michael T. Burling, April 7.

**DISTRICT COURT**

New civil suits – Eagle Financial Services, Inc. vs. Jessie M. Sebastian, April 4; LVNV Funding LLC vs. Kimberly Hill, April 10; Harley Mullins vs. Richard Holland, April 7; Harley Mullins vs. Amanda Mullins, April 7; Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC vs. Anthony R. Cantrell, April 10.

## String Along Quilt Guild holds monthly meeting

The March 25, 2025, meeting of the String Along Quilt Guild opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, reading of minutes and treasurer’s report.

The following members were present:

Kim Burton, Libby Hammond, Pauletta Keeton, Martha Lewis, Linda Perry, Gale Andrews-Reichert, Emily Tyree, and Sandra Tyree.

Guests included Wayne Tyree.

Members were updated on the 4-H Sewing group, and the Morgan County Peace by Piece,

Quilts of Valor organization.

The club will be selling chances on a quilt and the winner will be drawn during the September meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22, and we will be celebrating our 28th anniversary.

The purpose of the Guild is to promote education, preservation, shows, and exhibits in the fields of quilt making.

If you would like to become involved in learning how to sew, piece, or quilt, join us at our next meeting 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, in the basement of the West Liberty Christian Church or contact one of the members listed above for more information.

## The Donkey’s Cross

Bring me the colt of a donkey was the Master’s request.

A young donkey was brought to Jesus to carry him to Jerusalem.

A week later, Jesus was ordered crucified.

The little donkey so loved the Lord that he wanted to help

him carry the cross. But alas, he was pushed away.

The sad little donkey wanted to say goodbye to the Savior. As he turned to leave the shadow of the cross fell upon his back and shoulders as a reminder of the love and loyalty of the most humble Man and His love for everyone. And everytime we look upon the donkey we are reminded of His love for us.

—Sandra Carpenter

All business was taken care of.

The lessons for the month of February and March were discussed.

Games were enjoyed and a door prize was given. Dinner was furnished by the club.

We were pleased to have two visitors, Pauletta Wells and Tori Hoskins.

Those enjoying the evening

were Sharon Lykins, Jonell Tobin, Carol Jean Hoskins Price, Sandy Pelfrey, Pauletta Wells, Tori Hoskins and Crickett Cantrell.

The April meeting was held at Jonell Tobin’s house with Jonell Tobin serving as the hostess.

We hope to see more members at the next meeting.