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Vol. 117— No. 11

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Schl. Dist. Announces Public Meetings

Morgan Schools Local Planning Committee meeting slated June 5

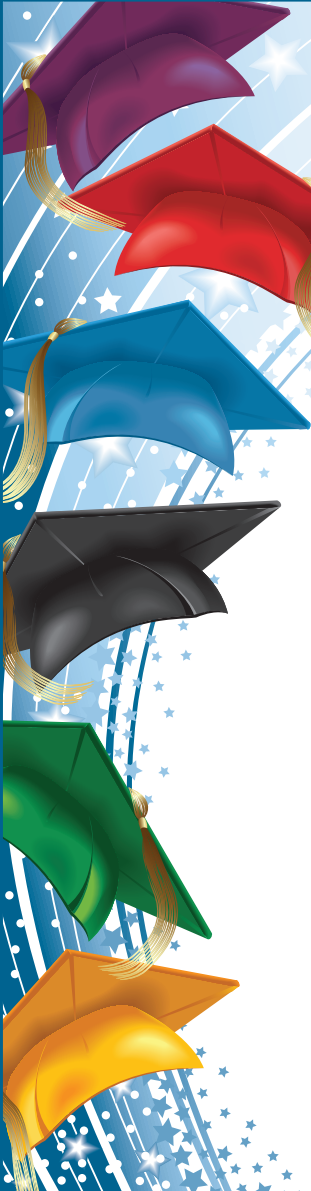
The Morgan County Schools Local Planning Committee (LPC) for the District Facilities Plan (DFP) meeting will be 6 p.m. Thursday, June 5th, at the Board of Education office at 155 University Dr., West Liberty, KY 41472.

At the conclusion of the LPC meeting, there will be a public forum for any person wanting to provide input on the development of the District Facilities Plan.

Morgan Schools public hearing on facilities plan slated June 19th

Morgan County Schools will host a Public Hearing to present information and gather feedback on the District Facilities Plan on June 19th at 6 p.m. located at the Board of Education: 155 University Dr., West Liberty, KY 41472.

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CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2025!

MCHS Graduation Is Slated For Friday, May 30th

One hundred thirty-four seniors are set to graduate; honor students are listed

By Miranda M. Cantrell

One hundred thirty-four Morgan County High School seniors are set to receive their diplomas on Friday, May 30, during the school's graduation ceremony.

This year's commencement will be held at the Earl Reed Athletic Complex on Don McKenzie Field on the high school campus, with ceremonies slated to begin at 7:30 p.m.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in Veterans' Memorial Gymnasium adjacent to the school.

MCHS Principal Ashley Pelfrey said that 62 graduates have achieved a GPA of 3.25 or higher and will be graduating with academic honors.

"As principal, it is with immense pride and heartfelt congratulations that I celebrate the achievements of our graduating class," Pelfrey said. "These students have demonstrated resilience, determination and growth throughout their journey. They leave us not only with academic accomplishments, but with the character and values that will guide them into the future."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ralph Hamilton also offered best wishes to the graduates on behalf of himself and the school board. "Congratulations to the Class of 2025!" Dr. Hamilton said. "This is a monumental moment in life for each of you! You have persevered, made lasting memories, and worked diligently to pre-

See GRADS , Page 3

School dist. addresses rumors of potential middle school closure

District's Local Planning Committee submits facilities plan for possible consolidation to KDE; local citizens sign petition and express concerns

By Miranda M. Cantrell

School district officials recently addressed the rumored potential closure of Morgan County Middle School following the circulation of an online petition to keep the facility open.

The petition – created on May 22 by an individual listed as Lytisha Lester – outlines supporters' rationale for keeping the school open:

"To close Morgan County Middle School and transition 7th and 8th grade students to Morgan County High School is a matter of grave concern for the residents of West Liberty, KY. We stand united in preserving the distinct educational environment that the middle school provides, which is crucial for the transitional phase of young adolescents.

"Middle school is a pivotal stage in a child's educational

journey, offering a unique learning atmosphere tailored specifically to the developmental needs of pre-teens. Closing this institution would only disrupt the academic continuity for these students.

"According to data from the National Center for Education Statistics, schools with overcrowded classrooms often face significant challenges in maintaining educational standards. Morgan County High School, which is at risk of becoming overcrowded, could suffer similar consequences, affecting the overall learning environment and student performance.

"The changes could also impact students' participation in after-school activities, which are crucial for holistic development.

"By keeping Morgan County Middle School open, we preserve an essential com-

See MCMS , Page 3

Judge Jim Gazay shares cancer treatment update

EDITOR'S NOTE
Judge Executive Jim Gazay in a May 25 Facebook posting shared further details regarding his health following his announcement of an upcoming colon cancer surgery and additional treatment at the last fiscal court meeting.

The judge executive also addressed rumors of his resignation – which he characterized as "entirely untrue" – after thanking citizens for their prayers and support during his illness.

We continue to offer our prayers and best wishes to Judge Gazay and his wife, Lisa, ahead of his surgery.

– Miranda M. Cantrell

Dear Citizens of Morgan County,

I want to share an update on my health and reaffirm my dedication to serving you as your Judge Executive. On June 6th, I will undergo colon surgery to remove approximately 8 inches of my colon. Following the surgery, I anticipate a recovery period of a few weeks. My medical team is very optimistic, and I am confident in their plan. Above all, I place my faith in God's hands, trusting His will to guide me through this journey.

I am deeply grateful for your prayers and support, which

See GAZAY , Page 3

Cops For Kids poker tournament set Friday, May 30

Morgan County Cops For Kids will be hosting a poker tournament in support of the organization's annual Christmas gift program benefitting local children.

The event will begin 7 p.m. Friday, May 30, at White Oak Fire Department.

The entry fee for the poker tournament is \$20, with two buy-backs before 10 p.m.

Any additional updates will be posted on the Morgan County Cops For Kids Facebook page.

Since 2007, the Morgan County Cops For Kids, a non-profit local charity, has been taking up donations and conducting fundraisers to provide

See EVENT , Page 3

Fiscal Court holds first readings of tourism and budget ordinances

By Miranda M. Cantrell

The Morgan County Fiscal Court during a regular May 22 meeting held the first readings of a tourism ordinance and a proposed budget for 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Tourism Ordinance – First Reading

Judge Executive Jim Gazay presented an ordinance regarding the formation of a county tourism commission and the implementation of a 3 percent transient room tax for visitors staying at local campgrounds, cabins and other recreational lodging areas.

"This is an ordinance implementing the establishment of a tourism commission and imposing a transient room tax in Morgan County," Gazay said. "The tax will only affect visitors who are coming in and staying at campgrounds, etc. [out in the county]. We've already got one campground up already, and another person with a 150-acre campground in the northern part of the county, I think. So we've got to get in front of this. We've got other stuff in Powell County headed this way. So that's what this is

See COURT , Page 3

MCHS Class Of 2025 Senior Photos Will Appear In Next Week's Edition!




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