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Licking Valley Courier

(USPS:312-040)

West Liberty, Kentucky 41472

Thursday, June 5, 2025



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Vol. 117 — No. 12

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**Schl. Dist. Announces Public Meetings**

**Morgan Schools Local Planning Committee meeting slated tonight**

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.

**W.L. Mountain Boys announce upcoming shows**

The West Liberty Mountain Boys recently announced upcoming shows for the summer concert season.

The group – comprised of Johnathan Keeton, Matt Bailey and Byron Holbrook, of West Liberty, and Ryan Gillum, of Morehead, and Maddie Murray, of Clay City – will play the following dates:

- June 7 – Pickin’ on the Licking: Old Mill Park in West Liberty, Ky., at 2 p.m.
  - June 7 – Menifee Mountain Memories Festival in Frenchburg, Ky., at 7 p.m.
  - June 21 – Strummin’ at the Strip in Morehead, Ky. at 6 p.m.
- The West Liberty Mountain Boys’ full concert schedule can be viewed on the website bandsintown.com and on the group’s Facebook, Instagram and TikTok pages.



Local veteran John McClurg with a Vietnam-era PBR military boat he recently restored.

# Local vet travels to Georgia for special military boat dedication

*John McClurg restores another PBR boat and is honored at Vietnam vets’ ceremony*

**By Miranda M. Cantrell**

Local veteran John P. McClurg traveled to St. Marys, Ga., on Saturday, May 31, to participate in a special ceremony for Vietnam War veterans featuring a military boat he recently restored.

McClurg, 81, graduated from Morgan County High School in 1961 and received a scholarship to the University of Kentucky.

Upon his graduation in 1966 from the University of Kentucky’s College of Agriculture – where he earned a degree in animal science nutrition – McClurg worked for an aircraft company in Ohio before he was drafted into the U.S. Army.

McClurg later enlisted with the Navy, and was accepted to the Naval Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, Rhode Island, where he was

eventually commissioned as an ensign.

In September of 1968, before graduation from OCS, McClurg volunteered for duty as an officer in charge of a Navy Swift Boat (PCF) for the war effort in Vietnam. He went to Coronado, Calif., for training in the small boat Navy.

In his first week of training, McClurg volunteered for duty as a Patrol Officer on the Patrol

Boat River (PBR).

The PBR – often referred to in the Navy as “Proud, Brave and Reliable” – was a small, 32-foot long fiberglass boat that was purchased for use in the Vietnam War to stop the infiltration of supplies and war materials from the North by stopping and searching river traffic.

McClurg served as a PBR  
*See MCCLURG , Page 3*

# “Pickin’ on the Licking” bluegrass event is slated for this Saturday, June 7th, at Old Mill Park

**By Miranda M. Cantrell**

The West Liberty Tourism Commission will kick off the 2025 Live on the Licking concert series with a special bluegrass event on Saturday, June 7, at Old Mill Park.

“Pickin’ on the Licking” will run from 2 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. and will feature headliners The Creekers, who are based in Leslie County, Ky., and cur-

rently have multiple singles on the bluegrass charts.

The group is comprised of Tanner Horton, vocals and lead guitar; Allen Hacker, vocals and rhythm guitar; Jagger Bowling, backup vocals and bass; Ashton Bowling, cajon; Scott Sutton, backup vocals and banjo; and Anna Blanton, fiddle.

Band members currently have multiple singles on

the bluegrass charts and have previously opened for Cole Chaney, Nicholas Jamerson, Brother Smith and Rhonda Vincent.

Local musicians including the West Liberty Mountain Boys and Randy Maloney & Friends are also on tap, as well as the Silver Dollar Band of Sandy Hook, Ky., and Donald Ray & The Bearfork Mountain Boys of Harold, Ky.

The West Liberty Mountain Boys – comprised of Johnathan Keeton, Matt Bailey and Byron Holbrook, of West Liberty, and Ryan Gillum, of Morehead, and Maddie Murray, of Clay City – will open the festivities with a performance at 2 p.m.

The complete schedule for the day is as follows:

- 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. – West Liberty Mountain Boys.

*See EVENT , Page 3*

# City Council okays budget on 1st reading

**By Miranda M. Cantrell**

The West Liberty City Council during a special May 27 meeting held the first reading of a budget ordinance for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The meeting was conducted the day after the regularly-scheduled date of May 26, which was Memorial Day.

The Courier was not in attendance.

Mayor Kyle Risner presented a letter addressed to city council members, city employees and citizens outlining several highlights of the proposed budget, which he described as comparable to last year’s:

“The Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) set forth the requirements and certain guidelines for financial administration of the fiscal affairs of cities. KRS 91A.010 through 91A.060, 83A.140 (8), and 83A.150 (5) specifically address the requirements of financial administration and fiscal responsibility.

“This budget message and attached budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 is presented to you in compliance with the appropriate statutes.

*See COUNCIL , Page 3*

# CLASS OF ‘25 PICTURES ON PAGES 8, 9 and 10!!!

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*... Fri., June 6 Blackwater Fire Dept. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.*



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