

Charged ...

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intention to steal the gun. He told police that when he saw the other person with the gun, he grabbed it from that person's side, then walked back to the vehicle and this was when the vehicle was receiving gunfire, resulting in someone getting shot, according to the citation.

Keeton told police where the gun was located in the vehicle and Trooper Smith was able to locate the handgun under the driver's seat. Keeton said he was sitting behind the driver's seat and put the handgun there.

The handgun located was a 9mm Taurus, with KSP Post 13 advising that since it was stolen out of Breathitt County on that date, it had not been entered into the system, but they were able to confirm the handgun was stolen per the victim.

Furthermore, KSP confirmed Keeton was a convicted felon, having been found guilty for second-degree manslaughter in 2013 and complicity to burglary out of Ohio.

Keeton was arrested and transported to Big Sandy Regional Detention Center, where he remains at press time with a \$2,500 cash bond, and charged with possession of a handgun by a convicted felon and receiving stolen property.

Another witness waiting at the fire department was Casey Payne, 38, of Lexington. When police arrived, they could smell the strong odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle involved in the shooting and police observed a large bullet hole in the back passenger side

door, according to the arrest citation.

KSP found in the glove-box an orange pill bottle with several marijuana cigarettes, a plastic bag with marijuana buds inside. Inside that bag was a smaller bag with a crystal-like substance believed to be methamphetamine and marijuana oil/dab in wax paper, according to the citation.

When asked who the drugs belonged to, Payne reportedly stated, "Well, it's my car."

Payne identified her bag inside the car to police and told them there may be a small amount of drugs in it, as well, according to the police report.

A search of her bag yielded another small baggie with suspected methamphetamine and a single plastic bag with marijuana buds, as well as an aluminum container with two white oval pills believed to be Neurontin, several used needles and a smoking pipe with drug residue.

Payne was arrested and taken to the Big Sandy Regional Detention Center, where she remains at press time with a \$1,000 cash bond. She is facing the following charges: first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense (methamphetamine); possession of marijuana; third-degree possession of a controlled substance, drug unspecified; buying or possessing drug paraphernalia; and prescription of a controlled substance not in proper container, first offense.

Editor's Note: The indictment or charge of a person by a grand jury or otherwise is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Thank You

Garrie and Donna Stamper and their family want to extend deep appreciation and a thank you to everyone who assisted the night they lost their home to a fire and for all the kindness in the days since. There are too many to name individually, but a special thanks goes to the fire departments from all the surrounding areas and the emergency and medical services that responded. These people are second to none in service and compassion. The family

does want to give a shout out to Kayla, Jacob and Jordan with the ambulance service for going above and beyond in the care of our mother that night. They assisted in making sure she had everything she needed medically before leaving her side. May God bless all of you.

— The Stamper Family (Pd.)

FAILURES

Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement.

— C.S. Lewis.

Council ...

(Continued From Page One)

approve up to \$15,000 from the city's general fund for the project to be matched by the tourism commission.

City Clerk Amy Cox told the Courier that the project's total cost could be lower than the estimated \$30,000, contingent on a variety of factors.

The mural is expected to be completed ahead of the Sorghum Festival slated for Sept. 26, 27 and 28 in downtown West Liberty.

In other news, the council member unanimously approved on second reading a budget ordinance for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, as well as amendments to the 2024-2025 budget ordinance.

Additional Information

For additional information regarding the mural project and/or other city government activities, contact City Hall at 743-3330.

Events ...

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"Shake It Off", "Blank Space" and "Bad Blood" with a total of 116.7 million units sold.

Following the Taylor Made concert, the annual fireworks display will begin at 10 p.m.

Festivities will continue on Friday, July 4, with the West Liberty Kiwanis Club's annual Independence Day celebration on Main Street at 10 a.m.

The program will include the traditional street games for children, recognition of veterans, and the presentation of the Citizen and Organization of the Year awards.

Free watermelon and lemonade will be available during the July 4 street celebration.

Everyone is invited to come out to these special events and celebrate Independence Day in downtown West Liberty!

Calendar ...

(Continued From Page One)

regarding the 2025-2026 school calendar, contact your child's school or call the Morgan County Board of Education Central Office at 743-8002.

Blood drive slated Thursday, June 26

LEXINGTON, Ky. — It's the Summer of Saving at Kentucky Blood Center.

To save donors cash as a thank you for saving local lives, KBC will feature exciting money-saving giveaways and promotions throughout the summer, including a chance to win free gas for a year. One lucky donor who gives blood June 1–30 will win a 52 \$50 Marathon gift cards, through a partnership with Clark's Pump-N-Shop.

Those who give blood at this upcoming drive will be entered into the giveaway. Plus, all donors will receive a "Kentucky Donor" T-shirt and a coupon for a buy one, get one free slice of Hangar 54 Pizza at Clark's Pump-N-Shop. More information on the giveaway is available at kybloodcenter.org/events/summer-of-saving-win-free-gas-for-a-year.

The Morgan County Community Blood Drive will be 1-6 p.m. Thursday, June 26, in the West Liberty Christian Church Fellowship Hall at 304 Prestonsburg St. in West Liberty, Ky.

Blood donations historically dwindle during the summer because of warm-weather activities, family vacations and no school. The need for blood doesn't take a break, however, and transfusion levels often

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City of West Liberty

ORDINANCE NO. 060925-1

An Ordinance adopting the City of West Liberty, Kentucky Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 Through June 30, 2026.

Estimating revenues and resources and appropriating Funds for the Operation of City Government

WHEREAS, an annual budget proposal and message has been prepared and delivered to the City Council, and;


WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed such budget proposal and made necessary modifications,

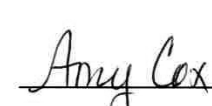
Now, therefore, Be it so ordained by the City of West Liberty that the annual budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 is hereby adopted.

1st Reading May 27th, 2025

2nd Reading June 9th, 2025

Attest:


Mayor


City Clerk

MORGAN COUNTY FISCAL COURT

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

Morgan County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for rock/gravel (per ton material only) and (per ton delivered/hailed to the county garage) for FY 25/26.

Bids will be opened at a special called fiscal court meeting on **June 24, 2025** at 6 pm in the Morgan County Fiscal Court Room of the County Office Building at 450 Prestonsburg Street, West Liberty, KY.

Bids may be mailed or presented in person and will be accepted through **June 24, 2025** at 4:00 pm, or they may be delivered at the meeting of the fiscal court on **June 24, 2025** at 6:00 pm. Bid to be effective **July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.**

For more information, call the Morgan County Judge Executive's Office at (606) 743-3897 between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

The Morgan County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
Morgan County Fiscal Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

C-6-12-2T

MORGAN COUNTY FISCAL COURT

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

Morgan County Fiscal Court will accept sealed bids for F/Y 2025-2026 for metal galvanized and plastic culvert pipe (per foot/various diameters).

Bids may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Morgan County Judge Executive's office and will be accepted through **4:00 pm June 24, 2025** or they can be hand-delivered to the fiscal court meeting on **June 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm.** Bid to be effective July 1, 2025 through **June 30, 2026.**

Bids will be opened on **Thursday, June 24, 2025** at 6:00 pm in the Fiscal Court Room of the County Office Building, 450 Prestonsburg Street, West Liberty, Kentucky.

For further information, please contact the Morgan County Judge Executive's Office Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, telephone (606) 743-3897.

Morgan County Fiscal court reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.
Morgan County Fiscal Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

C-6-12-2T

BID ANNOUNCEMENT

Morgan County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for asphalt. Bids will be opened at the special called fiscal court meeting on **June 24, 2025** at 6 pm at 450 Prestonsburg Street, West Liberty, KY. Bid will be in effect from **July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.**

1. We are asking for a price per ton picked up at the plant by Morgan County Fiscal Court for base, binder, and surface.

2. The court would like a price quote per ton (delivered only) to the paver on various county roads all over Morgan County.

3. Morgan County Fiscal court is asking for a price per ton for pavement-installed on various county roads "turn key jobs" from start to finish. Bidder furnishes all material, equipment, labor, and insurance.

4. Finally, Morgan County Fiscal Court is asking for a price per ton for laying pavement. The Court will furnish pavement at the site. Bidders will furnish all equipment and labor to install pavement on county roads.

Bids may be mailed or presented in person at the Morgan County Judge Executive's Office, 450 Prestonsburg Street, West Liberty, KY 41472 by 4:00 pm on **June 24, 2025**, or they may be delivered in person at the fiscal court meeting on **June 24th at 6:00 pm.**

For more information, call the Morgan County Judge Executive's Office at (606) 743-3897 between the hours of **8:00 am and 4:00 pm** Monday through Friday.

The Morgan County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.
The Morgan County Fiscal Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

C-6-12-2T

Morgan County

Propane

Hwy. 460 West • Mize, Ky. 41352

Open Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 4 pm



SUMMER

FILL

Starts June 16th - June 30th

ACCEPTING

NEW SETUPS.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS.

NOTIFICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED IN MAIL.