

Vol. 117— No. 15

SPEAKING OF AND FOR MORGAN, THE BLUEGRASS COUNTY OF THE MOUNTAINS

## **VACATION** NOTICE

#### NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

There will be no paper next week as the Courier office will be closed Monday, June 30, through Friday, July 4, for

The office will open for business again on Monday,

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Independence Day!

## Calendar for 2025-2026 schl. year is released

Morgan County school district officials have released a tentative calendar for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Aug. 13 First day of
- Sept. 1 Labor Day. (No
- Sept. 26-29 Sorghum Festival. (No school.) • Oct. 17 - Break. (No
- Nov. 24-28 Thanksgiving
- break. (No school.)
- Dec. 22 to Jan. 2 Winter break. (No school.)
- Jan. 5 Return after winter • Jan. 19 - Martin Luther
- King Jr. Day. (No school.) • March 30 to April 3 –
- Spring break. (No school.) • May 19 – Tentative last day

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

**MOVIE NIGHT** AT HORSE PARK FRI., JUNE 27: **MINECRAFT** SEE PAGE 8 **FOR DETAILS** 



## **Emmalyn Prater Qualifies** For Junior Olympics

Emmalyn Prater, along with other members of the Gym Dandy's team, represented team Kentucky at the AAU Nationals in Ft. Lauderdale Florida on June 18-21. Emmalyn received four medals and qualified for the National Team for the Junior Olympics. Emmalyn will be competing at the Junior Olympics in Houston Texas in July. Emmalyn is the daughter of Zach and Kayla Prater of West Liberty.



## **Senior commodities** giveaway will be Wednesday, July 2

Commodities for Seniors from God's Pantry will be distributed Wednesday, July 2, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the active list, and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the waiting list. Please bring a box, bag, tote or basket to put your items in. For additional information call 606-522-3988 or 606-495-5631. See you then!

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# School bd. approves facilities plan to close middle school

Vote was 4-1 on both readings; Gevedon cast lone "no" vote; no speakers voiced any opinions at June 19 public hearing hosted by planning committee

#### By Miranda M. Cantrell

The Morgan County Board of Education approved a District Facilities Plan (DFP) including the closure of Morgan County Middle School following a series of meetings last

School board members approved the plan on first reading during their regular June 17 meeting, which was followed by a public forum hosted by the district's Local Planning Committee (LPC) on June 19.

The LPC is charged with developing a four-year DFP as required by state statute.

The DFP states that sixth grade students will remain in elementary schools, while seventh and eighth grade students will be placed at the high school following the middle school's closure.

Should the DFP be approved by Kentucky Board of Education, the above-mentioned changes would not occur until the 2026-2027 school year.

Kentucky Board of Educa-

tion members are expected to consider the DFP at their next meeting.

No speakers took the floor during the June 19 public forum neither in support of nor opposition to the DFP, which had been unanimously approved by LPC members during a June 5

During the June 5 meeting. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ralph Hamilton noted that a significant drop in district enrollment prompted the middle school closure proposal:

"In 2014, I came over to the board [office] and we were at 2,000 kids," Dr. Hamilton said. "Since then, we have dropped to 1,670, and it is right along with the [University of Louisville] census data. We're right with that projection.

"We're built for 2,500 [students], and the fact of the matter is we have to have kids to have revenue to be able to operate at that level. If we continue to have that operational cost,

See PLAN, Page 3

# **Grand Jury hands down** indictments against 10 people in recent session

Grand Jury handed down in- (second degree). dictments against 10 people in a recent court session:

1.) Levi Cantrell, 44, of West Liberty, Ky. - Receiving stolen property over \$1,000 (Polaris Rzr).

2.) Zachary Marchal #333903, 23, Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex inmate Promoting contraband (first degree; drugs), trafficking in a controlled substance (second degree; suboxone), trafficking in a controlled substance (first degree; methamphetamine), trafficking in a controlled substance (first degree; oxycodo-

The Morgan Circuit Court ne), persistent felony offender

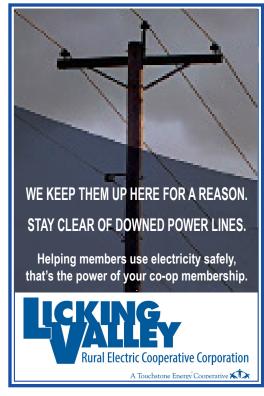
3.) Austin Passmore #325605, 21, Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex inmate – Assault (first degree), persistent felony offender (second degree).

4.) Terry Davis, 45, of West Liberty, Ky. - Assault (fourth degree; domestic violence), wanton endangerment (first degree), terroristic threatening (third degree), strangulation (first degree), public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia, tampering with physical evidence, posses-

See INDICTED, Page 3



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