

Plan ...

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it's going to take funds away for opportunity and access for our kids.

"We have invested \$1.5 million or more in salary for our staff, who deserve every penny that they get. To be able to continue to do that, we've got to cut costs somewhere. It's either cut costs in positions and programs, or cut costs in operation."

The LPC on June 5 also heard comments from Sara and Brad Nickell, Gary Johnson and Tish Lester, who all expressed concerns about the proposed closure; Jerry Jackson Jr., who inquired about facility maintenance; and Wendy Lawson-Crain, who indicated that Menifee County had seen no negative impact from the combining of the middle and high school populations.

Dr. Hamilton served as hearing officer at the June 19 public forum and gave a brief overview of the DFP before calling for comments from the audience of nine people.

A special school board meeting was held on June 20, at which time members approved the District Facilities Plan on second reading.

During both the June 17 and June 20 school board meetings – both of which also saw no comment from the public – members voted as follows in

regard to the DFP:

- **YES** – Ricky Pennington, Jesse Clinger, Esther Cain and James Lane.
- **NO** – Michael "Kornbread" Gevedon.

Gevedon has been a vocal opponent of the middle school closure and consolidation proposal on Facebook, where he issued the following statement to the public:

...

"At our recent meetings, the board voted 4-1 to approve the District Facilities Plan. While I was the lone opposing vote – and I stand by my reasons for doing so – I also recognize that the board has made its decision. I don't have to agree with the outcome, but I do have to accept it.

"As we move forward with the consolidation of our schools, I remain committed to working in the best interests of our students, staff and community, ensuring a smooth transition and advocating for the needs of those affected every step of the way."

...

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ralph Hamilton expressed his gratitude to the LPC and Breathitt County Superintendent of Schools Phillip Watts, who shared his experience with school closures and consolidations during the body's June 5 meeting:

...

"I want to thank members of the Local Planning Committee

for their service in developing the 2025-2029 District Facilities Plan. They were thorough and deeply engaged throughout the process to ensure their recommendations for the school board were informed and served the best interest of the district.

"Thank you to Mr. Phillip Watts for providing firsthand testimony on Breathitt County Schools consolidation and decrease in student enrollment."

...

The LPC consists of 20 members who serve in various capacities:

Dr. Ralph Hamilton, superintendent of schools; Kellie Keeton, Steve Gunnell, Raina Helton and Tammi Jo Leach, parents; Jennifer Williams, Hope Phipps, Emily Montgomery and Julie Lewis, teachers; Amber Adams, Amber Standafer, Ashley Pelfrey and Kristen Wheeler, principals; Joseph Gamble, facilities director; Sarah Beth Legg, school district central office; Laken Ruth, Aaron Hutchinson and Ashley Lykins, community leaders; Ricky Pennington, school board member; and Leah LeMaster, local building/zoning official.

Additional Information

For additional information regarding the Local Planning Committee or the District Facilities Plan, contact Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ralph Hamilton at 743-8002.

Blood drive is slated today at Christian Ch.

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 increase as donation frequency decreases.

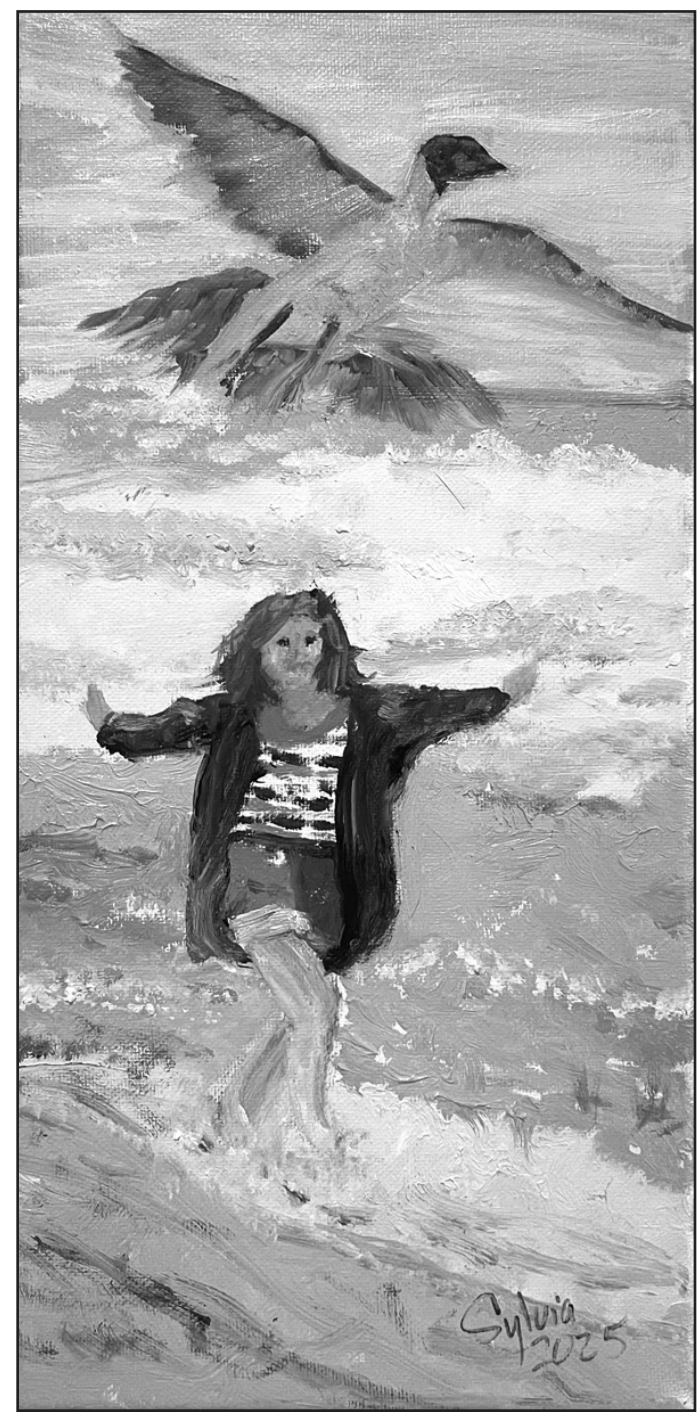
Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good general health, show a photo I.D. and meet additional requirements. Sixteen-year-old donors must have a signed parental permission slip, which can be found at kybloodcenter.org.

Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. To schedule a donation, visit kybloodcenter.org or call 800.775.2522.

About Kentucky Blood Center

KBC, the largest independent, full-service, nonprofit blood center in Kentucky, has been saving local lives since 1968. Licensed by the FDA, KBC's sole purpose is to collect, process and distribute blood for patients in Kentucky. KBC provides services in 90 Kentucky counties and has donor centers in Lexington, Louisville, Frankfort, Pikeville, Somerset and the Tri-County area (Corbin).

Art Exhibition Reception Slated Tonight At Wellness Center



Artwork by Sylvia Carter

The art gallery located in the Morgan County Youth and Wellness Center has a new exhibit now on view. Featuring the work of Diana Weddington Adkins, Sylvia Carter, Ron Gevedon, Phillip Harmon, Anna Martin and Pam Oldfield Meade, the show will hang until the end of July.

The public is invited to join us for an artist reception Thursday, June 26, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The Morgan County Youth and Wellness Center is located at 1412 KY Hwy. 7 in West Liberty, Ky..

Anyone interested in exhibiting in a future show can send contact info to Morgan County Youth and Wellness Center's via Messenger or to Sylvia Carter scarter78@icloud.com through email.

Indicted ...

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sion of a controlled substance (first degree, first offense; drug unspecified), persistent felony offender (first degree).

5.) Timothy D. Isaacs, 35, of West Liberty, Ky. – Criminal abuse (second degree; three counts).

6.) Willie Ray Ross, 57, of West Liberty, Ky. – Alcohol intoxication, wanton endangerment (first degree), endanger-

ing the welfare of a minor (two counts), terroristic threatening (third degree; two counts).

7.) Spencer Smith, 35, of West Liberty, Ky. – Cultivation of marijuana (more than five plants; 22 plants).

8.) Christopher Barker, 35, of West Liberty, Ky. – Criminal possession of a forged instrument (first degree, two counts; counterfeit currency), persistent felony offender (second degree).

9.) Junior Josue Oliva Castro, 32, of West Liberty, Ky. – Wanton endangerment (first degree; four counts).

10.) Charlie D. Perry, 58, of West Liberty, Ky. – Driving with suspended license, operating a motor vehicle under the influence (first offense; controlled substances), possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance (first degree; methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia (buy/possess), failure of owner to maintain required insurance (first offense).

EDITOR'S NOTE

An indictment is not proof of guilt, but merely an allegation that a crime has been committed.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

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SUMMER FILL

Starts June 16th - June 30th

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Events ...

(Continued From Page One)

ing numerous #1 Billboard Hot 100 singles including "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together", "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!

W.L. Homemakers regular meeting for month of June

The West Liberty Homemakers Club had their regular meeting on Thursday, June 12, at the home of Barbara Ison.

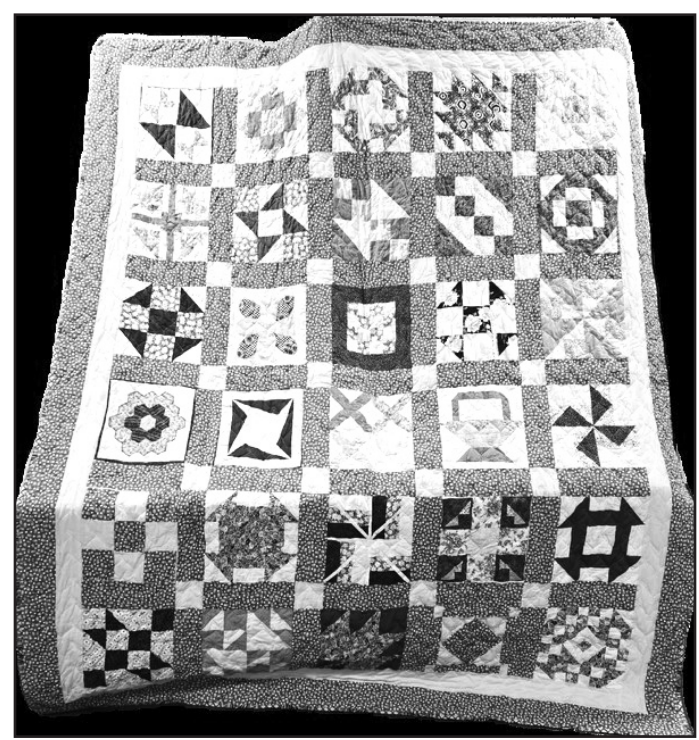
The meeting was called to order by Club President Sharon Lykins. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming out to the meeting.

The devotion, a poem entitled "Chapel in the Valley," was given.

All business was taken care of.

Games were enjoyed, door prizes were given, and delicious refreshments prepared by the hostess were enjoyed by all. Everyone enjoyed talking and catching up on all the news.

Those enjoying the evening were Jonell Tobin, Sharon Lykins, Sandy Pelfrey, Carol Jean Hoskins Price, Paulette



Quilt to be raffled in September.

String Along Quilt Guild holds monthly meeting

The May 27th meeting of the String Along Quilt Guild opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, reading and approval of the minutes and treasurer's report. The following members were present: Kim Burton, Pauletta Keeton, Martha Lewis, Rita Patrick, Linda Perry, Gale Andrews-Reichert, and Sandra Tyree.

Members accepted the resignation of Libby Hammonds as President. Vice-President Gale Andrews-Reichert is now President and Kim Burton was elected Vice-President. Several show and tell projects were displayed. Members were updated on the 4-H Sewing group, 4-H summer sewing camp days, and the Morgan County Peace by Piece, Quilts of Valor organization. Members discussed upcoming projects and future meeting topics.

Chances are being sold for the quilt pictured above. Contact Sandra Tyree (606) 495-5575 to purchase tickets, \$1.00 each for 6 for \$5.00. The winner will be drawn at the September club meeting.

If you would like to become involved in learning how to sew, piece, or quilt, join us at our next meeting on June 24th at 6:30 PM in the basement of the West Liberty Christian Church or contact one of the members listed above for more information.

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

Wells, Cricket Cantrell and hostess Barbara Ison. We were very pleased to have visitor Vicki Stacy.

The next meeting will be our picnic 6 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at the home of Sharon Lykins. All members should bring a dish that will go with hotdogs. We hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Kiwanis Club monthly evening meetings

The West Liberty Kiwanis Club will host a monthly evening meeting the fourth Monday of each month. Meetings will be at 5 p.m. in the Commercial Bank Community Room. Club members invite the public to attend.