

INSURANCE  
FOR ALL!



HOME, AUTO, LIFE,  
FARM



Insurance Agency, Inc  
606-743-4472  
facebook

The Licking Valley

Courier

(USPS 312-040)

West Liberty, Kentucky 41472

Thursday, December 25, 2025

BUYING OR  
SELLING?

YOUR HOME IS  
MY PRIORITY



REBECCA SEXTON

REALTOR

BLUEGRASS REALTY

LAWSON

REAL ESTATE INC.

606-359-5288

Vol. 117— No. 40

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

\$1.00 Per Copy

\$38.00 Year In County

\$41.00 Year In Kentucky

\$43.00 Year Outside Kentucky

## Magistrate Donnie Keeton Honored At Fiscal Court Meeting



The Morgan County Fiscal Court during a special Dec. 18 meeting paid tribute to the late Magistrate Donnie Keeton, who passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 26. Judge Executive Jim Gazay presented a plaque honoring Donnie’s years of service as a magistrate to Donnie’s wife Sue, daughter Hope and son Tyler. Pictured from left to right are magistrates Leroy Phipps and Brandon Evans, Hope Potter, Sue Keeton, Tyler Keeton, Judge Executive Jim Gazay, magistrates Tommy Fannin and Eric Pelfrey, and Sheriff Greg Motley. Judge Gazay and Sheriff Motley, a long time friend of Donnie, both spoke of Donnie’s dedication to the local community during the meeting. (Photo courtesy of Shenea Easterling/Morgan County Fiscal Court)

## Fiscal Court meeting minutes are listed

The following is an unofficial listing of items approved during the special Dec. 18 meeting of the Morgan County Fiscal Court:

Members present included Magistrates Brandon Evans, Tommy Fannin, Eric Pelfrey and Leroy Phipps, and Judge Executive Jim Gazay.

- Motion Passed – Motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Eric Pelfrey.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

- Motion Passed – Approval

of the financial statement ending Nov. 30, 2025, as presented. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Tommy Fannin.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

- Motion Passed – Approval of changes made to the budgeted chart of accounts as presented. Passed with a motion by Eric Pelfrey and a second by Tommy Fannin.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

- Motion Passed – Approval of budget transfers as presented. Passed with a motion by Tommy Fannin and a second

by Eric Pelfrey.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

- Motion Passed – Approval of the budgeted interfund cash transfer (\$50,000 from the general fund to the jail fund) as presented. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and second by Tommy Fannin.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

- Motion Passed – Ratification of prior period expenditures for WEX and Elan Financial Services. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Leroy Phipps.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

- Motion Passed – Approval of the County Clerk Randy Williams’ 2026 budget as a whole, subject to audit, and approve the order setting the deputies salaries not to exceed \$211,000. Passed with a motion by Eric Pelfrey and a second by Leroy Phipps.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

- Motion Passed – Approval of Sheriff Greg Motley’s 2026 budget as a whole as presented, subject to audit, set the maximum deputies’ salaries at \$950,000, participation in the State Advancement Program,

and return of the current year’s excess fees. Passed with a motion by Brandon Evans and a second by Eric Pelfrey.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

- Motion Passed – Approval to hire Nathan Bowman as a seasonal Wellness Center employee. Passed with a motion by Eric Pelfrey and a second by Brandon Evans.

Vote – Yes: Brandon Evans, Eric Pelfrey and Leroy Phipps. No: Tommy Fannin.

- Motion Passed – Approval to advertise FEMA projects on

See *COURT* , Page 3

## Candidate filings as of Dec. 22nd listed

By Miranda M. Cantrell

County Clerk Randy Williams told the Courier that no additional people have filed to run for local offices since the publication of last week’s candidate listing.

In state offices, Democrat Iva Markicevic Daley, who resides in Sandy Hook, has filed to run for state representative in the 99th District – a seat currently held by Republican Richard White, of Morehead.

Daley and White are the only candidates for that office at press time.

In federal offices, Democrat Pamela Stevenson and Republican George Washington have filed for the office of U.S. Senator, both joining multiple other candidates on their parties’ ballots.

The following is a complete listing of candidate filings for local, state and federal offices at press time:

**Judge Executive**

- Republicans – Jimmie Gazay (incumbent), James David Green and Kenneth Kelly Bowman.

- Democrats – Walker Crase.

**Sheriff**

- Republicans – Kenneth Scarberry, Jeffrey Smith and Roger Benton.

- Democrats – Jon Paul Turner.

**County Clerk**

See *FILINGS*, Page 3

## No Paper Next Week

**There will be NO PAPER on Thursday, Jan. 1, as the Courier office will be closed for vacation starting Monday, Dec. 29, through Friday, Jan. 2. We would like to wish all of our readers a Happy New Year as we look forward to 2026. – Editor**



Wishing you happiness at  
New Year’s Eve and all year long.  
We hope January 1 is the start of many  
new and exciting experiences for you.

Thanks for your visits in 2025.  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING  
YOU NEXT YEAR, FRIENDS!


Morgan Tire Center, Inc.

1592 West Main Street  
West Liberty, Kentucky






Phone: 606/743-7350 Or 606/743-4663



WE KEEP THEM UP HERE FOR A REASON.

STAY CLEAR OF DOWNED POWER LINES.

Helping members use electricity safely,  
that’s the power of your co-op membership.



Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

QUALITY  
QUICK LUBE, LLC

123 Hwy. 191  
West Liberty, Ky. 41472

Oil Change

Fast, Courteous Service

No Appointment Necessary

NOW OFFERING  
BRAKE SERVICES!

HOURS:

Monday-Thursday - 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday - 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday - 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Phone (606) 743-2120

Check With Us  
For All Your  
Car Care Needs!



We at Morgan Tire Center  
are here to stay!

ASE Certified Technicians

Morgan Tire Center, Inc.

1592 West Main Street  
West Liberty, Kentucky





Phone: 606/743-7350 Or 606/743-4663





“Turn Key”



Petre Construction LLC dba

Creekside  
BUILDINGS

(606) 522-4894

Office@CreeksideBuildings.com

13352 Hwy 172  
West Liberty KY

Blessed are the poor in spirit:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

