

# FOLKLORE

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local lore remains at the heart of this expansion, inspiring us to embrace every myth, legend and cultural oddity that makes Kentucky unique.”

Emond said the free festival includes more than 40 vendors, seven food trucks and local craft brews and Kentucky mead to try. There is also a playground and booths dedicated for children to have fun.

“If it’s your first time at the Kentucky Folklore Festival, expect a relaxed, fun-filled experience. The festival also offers a full day of talks, performances and contests,” Emond said. “At the end of the night, there will be a Goodbye and Witch Dance from local legends to cryptid callers, artisan vendors and costumed contests. This festival celebrates the weird, wonderful and storied traditions that make Kentucky unforgettable.”

Other planned events happening at the festival include storytelling from Packman Paranormal on The Hauntings of West Point; Emily Little on Where the Plants Still Speak: Herbal Lore from the Holler to the Hearth; Gray’s Taproom Comedy Live; a Sasquatch Calling Contest; Black Wolf Paranormal on Tales of the Bell Witch Cave; Zach Bales on Paranormal Roadtripper’s

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Nightmare Gallery; Sara Goodwin on Creating Modern Fairytales with Magic; and an All Costume Contest.

“It’s a chance to experience Kentucky’s weird, wonderful and unforgettable stories while enjoying local food, drinks and artisans in a family-friendly, fun-filled atmosphere. What sets us apart from other events is that we have a deep love and admiration for spooky season,” Emond said. “This isn’t your typical fall festival, think cryptid callers, paranormal tales, witch dancers and folklore brought to life. It’s Kentucky like you’ve never seen it before.”

Emond said she is excited to attend the festival and see all the new offerings.

“We are excited to have the festival in West Point this year. This is a tremendous community that is so rich in history, but is often overlooked,” Emond said. “We’re incredibly



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Many attendees of a previous Kentucky Folklore Festival are dressed in their witch costumes and perform a witch dance. The Folklore Festival returns Saturday and will be held in West Point.

grateful for the roots this festival has in Meade County and for the community that has supported it since its start in 2021. The Kentucky Folklore Festival grew out of the Battletown Witch Festival, which became a beloved local tradition. I’m so thankful to Meade County Tourism for their support and for allowing me to carry

that foundation forward when I left.”

The goal is to honor where the festival it began while continuing to grow and evolve the experience, Emond said.

“So many people look forward to this festival each year, and it means a lot to help it take its next step—something familiar, yet even more dynamic and

exciting. I’m so excited to take this experience and grow it into something fun and meaningful for the entire community,” Emond said. “Our hope is to continue building on this momentum and bring even more Hearth & Hallows festivals to life in the future. For now, we just want to say thank you—to everyone who

helped create the original Battletown Witch Festival, to those who have supported us through this new name and transition, and to all the new faces joining us for the first time. This festival exists because of the community’s enthusiasm, creativity, and love for Kentucky’s one-of-a-kind spirit.”

# DISPUTE

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Hardin County Judge-Executive Keith Taul “made promises to the people of White Mills” proposing an ambulance be removed from Radcliff, relocating it to White Mills to create a 24-hour emergency medical service in the westernmost part of the county at West Hardin Fire Department.

White Mills area currently does not have an ambulance stationed in the area. Response time for residents in that area of the county can be between 30 to 45 minutes.

Yates said the residents of White Mills deserve better response in medical care from the county’s EMS service; however, robbing Peter to pay Paul is not the way to go about it, as that would be a detriment to the northern end.

“Radcliff, Vine Grove and Rineyville are the areas supported by the ambulances in Radcliff,” Yates said. “Those ambulances are serving about 40,000 residents. Taking away an ambulance, taking it all the way down to White Mills will definitely hurt the response times in our area.”

Yates encourages all of the residents of these communities to be present and express their concerns about the proposal.

In his opinion, Yates believes the best move is to provide the White Mills area with the 40-hour ambulance service, giving members of Hardin Fiscal Court the opportunity to gauge the numbers of runs that come out of the area.

When it is time to look at the budget for the next fiscal year, magistrates could then look at the data and attempt to pay for a 24-hour ambulance service for that area of the county.

“I do not think the right move is to take an ambulance out of the second largest city, and one of the most populated areas in the county away,” Yates said.

Councilman Jerry Brown asked Yates for the number of runs generated monthly by the ambulance station in Radcliff.

Yates said, each of the three



GREG THOMPSON/The News-Enterprise

Hardin County District 1 Magistrate Chris Yates addresses Radcliff City Council members as well as those in council chambers and on live social media Tuesday informing residents of a proposal to change services for one of three ambulances stationed in Radcliff. A town hall meeting is at 5:30 p.m. Monday at Hardin County Government in Elizabethtown.

ambulances, on average, make between 150 to 160 runs for a total of nearly 480 runs per month.

“That’s a significant number,” Yates said.

Should one of the ambulances be removed, leaving only two to service the area, a third ambulance would have to come from Elizabethtown meaning an additional 10 to 12 minutes in response time, depending on where the medical emergency is.

Again, Yates reiterated residents in and around White Mills deserve the same emergency medical coverage as others in the county, “but we have to make sure we’re being responsible with how we divide up our ambulances with the resources we have.”

Handing its regular business, council took up a rezoning request from Silver Gate LLC for property at 238 Cedar Oak Drive in Vine Grove, to change the property from a commercial zone to an R-4 zone.

In a previous meeting, council decided to have another public hearing on the matter before voting on it after concerns from Fort Knox officials about the zone request were raised.

Prior to the move, the zone change request was recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The public hearing was held Oct. 13, at which time, Glenn Turner representing Silver Gate and Jim Bradford, deputy to the Fort Knox Garrison Commander, presented their cases.

The property in question, butts against the installation where Army training is held and low-flying military aircraft pass over, as the area also is close to Godman Army Airfield.

Councilman Jerry Brown, recalling the first three jobs he held were on Fort Knox, is of the impression the relationship between the city and the military reservation has been lost over the years.

“I’m hopeful, with the vote we’re taking and the discussions we’ve had over the past few weeks, has brought us together,” he said. “And, we’ll have a better understanding of the needs of each

entity.”

Five of the six council members voted to approve the rezoning request in favor of Silver Gate LLC. The only vote against was given by Councilwoman Pam DeRoche.

DeRoche commented she found strong reasons from both sides as they presented their arguments. However, the deciding factor for her to vote against the request “comes down to public safety ... and I have concerns about children playing next to that training area,” she said.

Another reason dealt with current and future economic missions growth on Fort Knox that could be impacted by the council’s approval.

“This is the hardest thing I think I’ve ever had to decide,” DeRoche said.

The council set Trick-or-Treat times in city limits for 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

Greg Thompson can be reached at 270-505-1414 or gthompson@thenewsenterprise.

# HEAD

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However, Conover noted, agency directors in Kentucky have been getting incomplete information from Washington.

“One reality of the furloughing of federal bureaucratic staff all across multiple agencies is that those are the people that federal grant recipients such as us rely on,” Conover said. “There is not good information that anyone’s able to put out because it’s not there right now.”

Agency members have held internal discussions on how their decision will impact so many people. They have monitored the situation in Washington, hoping there would be a breakthrough.

“We’ve done our best to be as transparent with our staff, specifically about what this might look like,” Conover said. “We have not had significant communication to families at this point because we didn’t want to create undue stress and anxiety.”

With a shortage of daycare center options available in most communities, coupled with the high cost of the service, closing for even a short time could be financially devastating for families who are already struggling, Conover said, adding he considers the situation heartbreaking.

“We know it is going to be incredibly painful for a

lot of Kentucky families,” Conover said. “A lot of Kentucky families are going to have tough choices to make. There may not be child care or preschool slots available in their communities. We will work with each family the best we can to try to find another option for them.”

While there is never a good time for a government shutdown or a Head Start center to close, Conover would rather be working on other annual seasonal programs right now.

“This should be a time of the year when we are expanding services, getting people ready for Thanksgiving, and getting people ready for our Angel trees and Christmas services,” he said. “We should be wrapping arms around families, and the prospect of us not being able to do so is very troubling, personally and professionally.”

Conover, who has been in the job for less than a year, said not all Community Action programs are being affected by the shutdown. That includes the Low-Income Heating Assistance Program and the Community Services Block Grants.

“The state has already been appropriated those funds, and unless there’s some sort of shift in Washington to do impoundments of any of those programs, we do not anticipate any impacts to those programs for at least six months. They have enough funds on hand to operate for the foreseeable future.”



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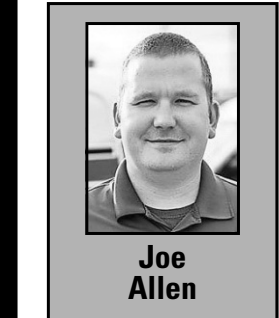
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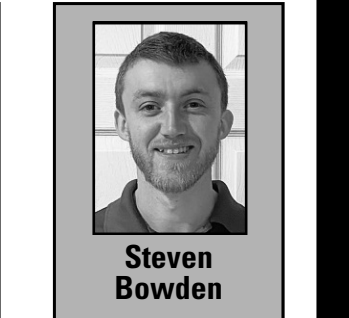


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