

Owingsville City Hall renovation to go to bid soon

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES \$10,000 DONATION TO TENNIS COURT RESTORATION PROJECT



Photos by Cecil Lawson
Addy Charles and Kylee Hodson, standing, members of the Wildcat Leadership Council at Bath County High School, asked for a donation from Owingsville City Council for a project to restore the tennis court by the county pool during Monday's regular August meeting. Council members agreed to a \$10,000 donation, helping them reach their goal of \$43,000. Work on the project could start as early as this week.

By Cecil Lawson
KyNewsGroup
cecil@kynewsgroup.com

After a six year wait, Owingsville City Council members voted to advertise for bids for a renovation of City Hall.

Mayor Hunt introduced Bob Pickerell and Megan Hogan from Bell Engineering, and he shared details of the base bid and alternates for the renovation project. The renovation will add 250 square feet to the Owingsville Police Department's office, including additional office space,

bathroom, and a secure evidence room.

Owingsville Police Chief John Sutherland and Assistant Chief Justin Sutherland both acknowledged that while the space in their office would still be tight, it would be better than what they currently have. Chief Sutherland also said the evidence locker will help with accreditation for the department.

Council member Rhonda Hatton questioned whether the renovation will be worth the expense and whether some of the alternates are worth do-



Owingsville City Council members Steve Bashford and Steve Butcher read over three resolutions related to funding a \$1.2 million sewer and water line replacement project.

ing.

Mayor Hunt said they had been planning on this project since 2020, and they will be going to be this week. He said they would see what the bids would be, and he hoped to have 4 or 5 local contractors to place bids. The city has \$160,000 in a USDA Rural Development grant, as well as up to \$450,000 from the city's general fund.

Once the bid notice appears in next week's News-Outlook and on the Lynn Imaging website, contractors will have 21 days to submit bids. Hunt said bids would be available for the City Council to approve in September or October.

Kylee Hodson and Addy Charles, Bath County High School students and

members of the Wildcat Leadership Council, did a presentation about their project to raise funds to resurface the tennis court and restripe it for tennis and pickleball. They said pickleball is a growing, popular pastime, and the nearest courts are in Mt. Sterling and Morehead. They presented an estimate from Barnes Seal Coating, for \$43,000 for the entire project.

Stefani Donohew, Community Education Director for the school district, said the Board of Education approved allowing the Wildcat Leadership Council create a GoFundMe account for the project earlier

Renovation cont. on pg. 2



Photo courtesy of Steve Griggs

Tater Knob Fire Tower: A Piece of Kentucky History Worth Saving

By Brent Frizzell, Bath County Tourism Director

In 1934, Tater Knob became home to a fire tower that would outlast every other fire tower in the Daniel Boone National Forest. In 1959, the original wooden structure was replaced with a 10' x 10' metal lookout cab. By the mid-1970s, aircraft had largely replaced fire towers for wildfire detection.

In 1993, the tower was restored and reopened to the public. Prior to the fire Tater Knob was the last remaining fire tower on public land in the Daniel Boone National Forest—a rare and irreplaceable landmark that connects us to the region's forestry, conservation, and fire protection heritage.

Tragedy struck on December 3, 2008, when vandals used spray paint as an accelerant and set fire to the wooden support structure beneath the lookout cab. The damage was significant, but the effort to save the tower began almost immediately.

A fundraising campaign was launched in 2009 to start the restoration process. In 2018, an engineering study was completed using funds raised by supporters. In 2023, a grant was secured to move the restoration project forward.

Since that time, however, the project has faced numerous delays and additional requirements. Among those requirements is an archaeological survey of the entire knob and a historical survey.

The total cost of both surveys is just over \$11,000. Unfortunately, grant funds cannot be used to complete these surveys.

With the grant deadline rapidly approaching, time is running short. We must raise the funds necessary to complete these required surveys and keep the restoration project alive.

Listed on the National Historic Lookout Register, the tower stands as a symbol of the men and women who once watched over these forests and the communities they protected. Preserving Tater Knob is about more than saving a structure; it is about safeguarding a piece of Kentucky history for future generations.

We are calling on the Friends of Tater Knob local businesses, community leaders, and elected officials to help us finish this project. If we lose this grant, it is unlikely that another opportunity of this magnitude will come along. If that happens, we risk losing not only a historic fire tower, but an irreplaceable piece of our region's heritage. Once lost, this landmark can never be replaced.

Help us preserve Tater Knob Fire Tower for future generations. Your support today will ensure that this unique symbol of Kentucky's history continues to inspire visitors and tell its story for years to come.



Local parasitic infection cases remain low

A parasitic infection outbreak affecting thousands across the United States this summer has had only a limited impact on the Gateway Health District Region.

Cyclosporiasis has affected more than 22,000 people in the country from May 1 to August 4, according to the Centers for Disease Control, in 47 states.

Gateway District Health

Department Director Greg Brewer said on Tuesday there were 5 reported cases in Rowan County and 1 case in Morgan Counties.

The Gateway Health District includes Bath, Elliott, Menifee, Morgan, and Rowan Counties.

The Kentucky Department for Public Health reported 735 cases across

the state, with 30 people hospitalized. The majority of cases have been reported in Fayette, Madison, and Jefferson Counties.

The infection is caused by the parasite Cyclospora contaminating food and water, particularly fresh vegetables and fruit.

Symptoms of cyclosporiasis include watery diarrhea with frequent,

sometimes explosive bowel movements, fatigue, and abdominal cramping. Symptoms appear 2 to 14 days after exposure. Some people may feel ill for days up to a month with symptoms that come and go.

Most healthy people re-

Cyclosporiasis cont. on pg. 2

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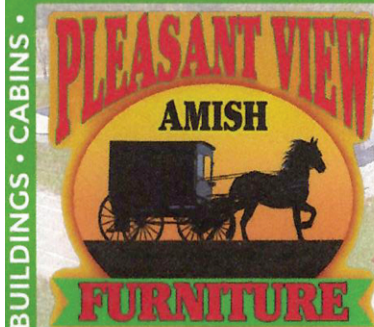
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