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Clinton County News

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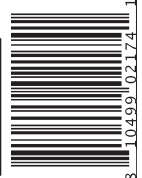
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THANK YOU!



Thursday, April 16, 2026
 One Section • 12 pages
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Albany, KY 42602 - Single Copy \$1
 Phone: 606-387-5144 - Email: gpcompany@kih.net - USPS 118-480
 Between Lake Cumberland & Dale Hollow Lake



Fire Chief injured during mobile home fire Sunday

The Albany Fire Department responded to a call around 2:28 p.m. Sunday afternoon of a brush fire that broke out close to a mobile home on Tobin Ridge Road.

According to Captain Rob Winsett, when the initial call came in, the mobile home wasn't on fire. However, when the fire department arrived the home was completely engulfed in flames.

"There were some electrical lines down and we had to wait on RECC to get that taken care of," Winsett said. "Once we got the power off, we were able to put the fire out on the home, but it was a total loss."

The scene was clear, but at 5:17 p.m., the fire department was called back to the scene, where a nearby tree had caught fire. A limb from that tree fell and struck Fire Chief Robert Roeper, causing serious injury. According to his wife, Wanda, Roeper suffered from a broken ankle and three broken bones in his back, but clarified it wasn't Roeper's spine.

She went on to say Roeper had incurred some burns on his back and elbows.

"He's going to be okay with his burns," Wanda

See FIRE, page 12



Smoke continued to rise from what remains of a mobile home that was destroyed by flames Sunday afternoon on Tobin Ridge Road in southwest Clinton County. At left, the large tree that was burning during a second call to the location, which fell on Albany Fire Chief Robert Roeper as he was trying to extinguish the burning tree. Roeper received serious injuries during the accident, including third degree burns and several broken bones. He was airlifted to a Nashville hospital for treatment of those injuries.

ARRESTED

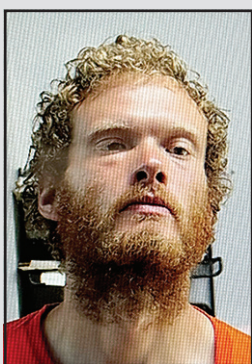
Law enforcement officers from the area continue to battle the local war on drugs, and criminal activity in general, which resulted in the following recent arrest:

Adam Lane, 34, of Albany, was arrested and charged with wanton endangerment in the first degree (police officer), menacing, disorderly conduct in the first degree, resisting arrest and public intoxication from a controlled substance (excludes alcohol).

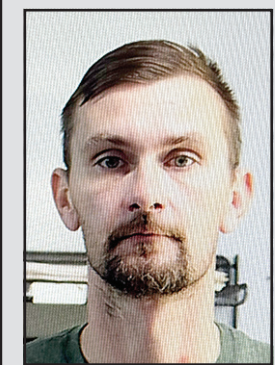
Bryan Neeley, 38, of Albany, was arrested and charged with two counts of wanton endangerment.

Deborah Crabtree, 66, of Albany, was arrested and charged with burglary in the third degree, theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others, and criminal mischief in the second degree.

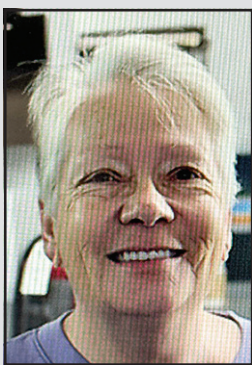
Readers are reminded that suspects charged and arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Adam Lane



Bryan Neeley



Deborah Crabtree

Mail-In voting underway for May 19 Primary

Mail-in absentee balloting is now underway with the deadline to request a mail-in ballot being Tuesday, May 5 at 4 p.m. local time, according to information from the Kentucky Secretary of State's website.

Requests for mail-in absentee ballots began on Saturday, April 4, and voters are encouraged to request a ballot well before the May 5 deadline if they know they will be voting absentee.

All mail-in absentee ballots must be received by 6 p.m. local time on Election Day, May 19, to be counted. Voters are highly encouraged not to wait until election day to hand deliver their ballot, but rather cast their ballot as soon as they receive it.

See VOTE, page 12

Mayor's new salary amount depends on Ordinance passage

The matter of how much the Mayor of Albany's pay will be beginning with the 2027 year term has tentatively been agreed on -- via split vote, at \$35,000 annually.

However, the agreed on amount is still pending two Ordinance readings by the full council and time is running short on when a specific salary can be set.

The issue began earlier this year when the council granted raises for the next administration's officials, with the mayor going from \$24,000 to \$52,000 and council members from \$250 to \$700.

However, since that initial action, an instance arose when the PSC (Public Service Commission) filed a complaint against Albany, on behalf of Cumberland Water District for overcharging them for water sold from the local system.

The reason for the complaint was that Albany had not given proper notice of the hikes in water rates prior to charging Cumberland County for the water.

See MAYOR page 5

Council reviews audit report during long meeting

Albany City Council held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 7, with all council members present for the lengthy meeting, which last just over an hour and a half.

The council first heard some positive financial information as Sammy Lee, the city's auditor, gave his annual report for the fiscal year ending 2025.

Lee presented the city with a 'clean opinion', which is the best that can be issued, he said.

He reviewed various pages of the report pertaining to the city's financial situation in terms of assets and balances in the general government and water and sewer departments.

The report revealed the city had accumulated a half-million dollars in assets over the past audit period and the water and sewer departments combined with a positive \$18 million.

At the conclusion of the report, Councilman Reed Sloan made a motion to approve and accept the audit, which passed unanimously.

Albany Mayor James Bray then gave a brief update on the logos being placed on city trucks.

As pertaining to the city nuisance ordinance and the attempts to have properties cleaned up, City Attorney Jeff Hoover said paperwork has been completed and the city can sign a lien on the properties and take steps to have them cleaned up, as well as imposing \$25 per day fines from the 60 days the property owners were first notified of the problem.

Hoover said the mayor had the option of using city employees to clean up properties or sub-contract the work.

Council members felt that subcontracting would be the best avenue and could keep city employees free to do their own work.

The cleanup would also be the responsibility of the property owner to pay, the attorney noted.

The council discussed three properties in question.

See COUNCIL page 10

Clinton County Sheriff's Audit report released

State Auditor Allison Ball has released the audit of the 2024 financial statement of Clinton County Sheriff Ricky Marcum. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year; one reporting on the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fair-

ly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Clinton County Sheriff in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the sheriff's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable methodology. This methodology of reporting is followed for all 120 sheriff audits in Kentucky.

The auditor noted no instances of noncompliance. The auditor also not-

ed no matters involving internal control over financial reporting and its operation that were considered to be material weaknesses.

The sheriff's responsibilities include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement, and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice. The sheriff's office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The audit report can be found on the auditor's website.



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