

Court ...

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responder agencies] are already interested in using.”

Judge Gazay also cited the “poor condition” of the current EMS facility, an assessment with which attending EMS personnel concurred.

Magistrate Brandon Evans inquired as to where the facility would be located, and Judge Gazay responded that it would near the proposed UK St. Claire Clinic, which is set to be built adjacent to the Morgan County Wellness Center.

Though Judge Gazay has recently discussed a relocation plan for the clinic – initially announced in 2023 and slated to be built on property to be donated by former Judge Executive John Will Stacy and family – in various public settings, the revamped project has not been officially announced by UK St. Claire at press time.

During a discussion of the clinic project at the July 2025 fiscal court meeting, Magistrate Eric Pelfrey inquired if the property transaction between Stacy and UK St. Claire had been finalized, and Judge Gazay answered, “No.”

Following the July 2025 fiscal court meeting, the Courier

spoke with the UK St. Claire President and CEO Donald Lloyd, who stated that the clinic project had been delayed by St. Claire’s 2024 merger with UK HealthCare and that hospital officials had made “no firm decision” about the facility’s location at that time.

Additionally, Lloyd confirmed to the Courier in July 2025 that UK St. Claire officials were considering other potential sites for a clinic in Morgan County.

(Any updates on the UK St. Claire clinic project will be noted in the Courier as they become available.)

Following Magistrate Evans’ inquiry regarding the EMS facility location, he asked if the project would be federally funded.

“It’s federal money,” Judge Gazay confirmed. “Even the state money they are going to give us will probably be federal money coming through [the state] ... All of this will be handled through Gateway [Area Development District].”

Magistrate Evans asked about the total cost of the project, which Judge Gazay stated would be approximately \$4.1 million with federal monies and additional state funds.

“This won’t cost the county a penny?” Magistrate Evans asked. “It’s a \$4 million project

and you know this is \$100,000. That’s going to be hard to cough up.”

Judge Gazay again stated that all funding would come through federal and state sources.

“It’s not going to cost the county anything,” Gazay said. “I wouldn’t have signed onto it if it did. I never want to go through something like what we went through with that splash pad again.”

(NOTE: The splash pad project was initiated in 2020 during the previous administration and required a \$250,000 match from the fiscal court. The current administration was unable to withdraw from the federal project agreement.)

Judge Gazay asked Morgan County EMS Director Raven Perry if she wished make any comment on the EMS facility project.

“We need a new building,” Perry said.

Magistrate Tommy Fannin concurred.

“I agree with you there,” Fannin said. “That building has been there for ages.”

Perry cited several structural issues with the current EMS building, as well as traffic issues for EMS personnel attempting to access Hwy. 460 from Dogwood Lane.

Judge Gazay indicated that the state highway department plans to address visibility issues at that intersection in the future.

“The state is going to go through and extend that line of sight and take that hill out,” Gazay said. “So that’s another project that’s coming. But we need to get [EMS personnel] off that hill, and get them over there to where they’ve got direct access onto Route 7.”

Additionally, Judge Gazay stated that the property for the current EMS headquarters was donated by LION, which he said is in need of additional parking.

“We would give that back to them,” Gazay said. “LION is interested in hiring more people, so that would give them the parking space to bring in more employees ... It would also keep EMS from having to deal with the congestion coming off that hill.”

Magistrate Evans asked for further clarification of Gateway Area Development District’s role in administering the funds.

“Gateway will be handling the whole thing,” Gazay said. “The money will come through them, so we won’t have to worry about that – and we won’t have to use coal severance money. It be coming directly,

and Gateway will be collecting and distributing [the funds] for us to use.”

Magistrate Fannin asked Judge Gazay about the status of the project if for any reason the anticipated federal funds are not allocated.

“The project dies,” Judge Gazay responded. “It goes away. I did not sign anything stating that Morgan County would pay for it. I ain’t getting into that ... If they can’t produce the money, the project dies.”

Magistrate Evans indicated that he wished to make a motion on the matter.

“I’m going to make a motion to approve the ARC grant [application] – on the assumption that there’s no risk to the county,” Evans said, and Magistrate Fannin stated that he would second the motion under those circumstances.

Judge Gazay told Fiscal Court Clerk Larry Robbins to note the above-stated stipulation in the meeting minutes ahead of a unanimous vote to approve the ARC grant applica-

tion resolution.

County Tax Rate

In other news, Judge Gazay presented options for this year’s county tax rate before recommending the compensating rate of 5.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

(The above-listed rate is the same as last year’s.)

On a motion made by Magistrate Evans and seconded by Magistrate Fannin, the court unanimously approved the recommended rate.

Other Approved Items & Meeting Minutes

For a complete listing of all items approved during the July 31 meeting, contact Judge Executive Jim Gazay at 743-3987 or County Clerk Randy Williams at 743-3949, or visit their offices to obtain a copy of the meeting minutes.

Additional Information

For additional information regarding Morgan County Fiscal Court activities, contact Judge Executive Jim Gazay at 743-3897 or visit his office in the Morgan County Wellness Center on Route 7.

School ...

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tion’s investment in the Paxton/Patterson Career Lab, students will have access to engaging, hands-on learning experiences that introduce them to a wide variety of career pathways.

“Seventh and eighth grade students will begin exploring future possibilities in the Discovery Den, while students in grades 9–11 will participate in more in-depth, career-focused experiences in The CAVE.

These innovative learning environments will help students discover their interests, build valuable skills, and prepare for future success.”

Dr. Hamilton also expressed gratitude to local community members for their support of Morgan County schools.

“On behalf of the Morgan County Board of Education, I want to thank our families, staff, students, and community partners for their continued support and partnership,” Dr. Hamilton said. “Together, we play an essential role in helping every student thrive. Morgan County Schools remains com-

mitted to transparent communication, strong community collaboration, and providing meaningful opportunities that prepare students to become strong, independent, and resilient learners ready to lead successful futures. We look forward to an outstanding school year and can’t wait to see everyone on Aug. 12!”

The last day of school is tentatively scheduled for May 13, 2027.

Additional Information

For additional information regarding Morgan County school district policies, con-

tact Dr. Ralph Hamilton at 743-8002 or visit the Morgan County Board of Education office located at 155 University Dr., adjacent to the public library building.

Gateway ADD special board meeting Aug. 11

The Gateway Area Development District will hold a Special Session Board of Directors’ Meeting on Tuesday, August 11, at 10:30 a.m. at the Gateway Area Development District office located at 110 Lake Park Drive in Morehead



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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

NOTICE TO MORGAN COUNTY TAXPAYERS

RANDY WILLIAMS, MORGAN COUNTY CLERK, PURSUANT TO KRS 424.130, ANNOUNCES THAT THE 2025 DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAX BILLS (CERTIFICATES OF DELINQUENCY) WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LICKING VALLEY COURIER ON AUGUST 13, 2026. THE LIST OF CERTIFICATES OF DELINQUENCY IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING THE HOURS OF 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM AT THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE LOCATED AT 450 PRESTONSBURG STREET IN WEST LIBERTY. THE LIST OF BILLS MAY ALSO BE VIEWED AT www.morgan.clerkinfo.net THE TAX SALE WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 BEGINNING AT 9:00 AM IN THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE. ALL INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER WITH THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE BY THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2025. PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TAX SALE REGISTRATION PROCESS, THE REQUIRED REGISTRATION FEE OR THE DEPOSIT AMOUNTS THAT WILL BE NEEDED. TAXPAYERS CAN CONTINUE TO PAY THEIR DELINQUENT TAX BILLS TO THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE PRIOR TO THE TAX SALE. IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE AT 606-743-3949.

***SOME BILLS ON THIS LIST MAY HAVE BEEN PAID BEFORE PRINT TIME PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.**