

The Licking Valley Courier

P.O. Box 187- West Liberty, Ky. 41472- Phone 606-743-3551
USPS Permit Number 312-040

EARL W. KINNER Publisher	MIRANDA CANTRELL News Editor	RICK ADKINS General Mgr.
RICK ADKINS Advertising	DAVID PATRICK Sports	

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address and all forms to the above address. The Licking Valley Courier is published on Thursdays 51 weeks a year. Periodicals postage paid at the West Liberty Post Office, West Liberty, Kentucky. Editor reserves the right to edit and/or omit all items submitted for publication.

Shedding Some Light

Editor Miranda Cantrell’s story this week about the surprising decision by a branch of the Oriental Orthodox Church to locate a monastery in the rolling hills of Morgan County should lay to rest suggestions voiced lately on social media that the presence of something as benign as a Christian monastery may somehow pose a threat to the peace and tranquility of the surrounding communities.

Curiosity about new neighbors is normal and also prudent. But suspicions voiced

by some on social media that these new neighbors could be a dangerous “cult” of some kind or even Muslim radicals, are unfounded.

The monastery’s founder—the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church Diocese of the United States and Canada, is a branch of the Oriental Orthodox Church, one of the oldest Christian denominations in the world.

Hats off to Editor Cantrell for shedding some much needed light on the matter.

—Earl W. Kinner, Publisher

Wolfe County moves to regulate data centers

An ordinance regulating and restricting the construction and operation of data centers in Wolfe County has been approved and adopted by the Wolfe County Fiscal Court.

The action follows the recent closing of a controversial data collecting facility in Wolfe County’s Rogers community.

The Wolfe County data center, a Bitcoin information mining facility operated by Artemis Power Tech, opened about three years ago at a site on Ky. 1036 without public notice to residents. It’s closure came on the heels of a slow down in the Bitcoin market, according to sources.

During the period it was in operation, nearby residents complained of a constant, annoying industrial hum emanating from the facility.

The closure reflects a broader challenge facing residents

throughout the nation who complain of excessive noise and express fears that data centers will mean higher electricity rates and water costs and environmental problems for their communities.

The ordinance recognizes the Fiscal Court’s “obligation to the citizens of Wolfe County to protect the availability of certain infrastructure, including but not limited to water supply and electric supply.

WRITE IT DOWN

Religion is the only solid basis of good morals; therefore education should teach the precepts of religion, and the duties of man towards God.

—Gouverneur Morris

####

Nothing happens by accident in politics. If something happened, it was meant to be.

—Benjamin Franklin

Social Security Adm. marks 91 years of service to the American people

For more than 90 years, Social Security has guaranteed older Americans, families facing loss, and people with disabilities can live with dignity.

Baltimore, MD – The Social Security Administration (SSA) today marks the 91st anniversary of the Social Security Act, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 14, 1935. The program remains one of the most trusted institutions in American history.

This year, 75 million beneficiaries will receive over \$1.6 trillion in payments, making Social Security a promise fulfilled for retired workers, survivors, people with disabilities, and the most vulnerable, and a cornerstone of retirement security across generations.

“For more than 90 years, Social Security has guaranteed older Americans, families facing loss, and people with disabilities can live with dignity,” said Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano. “Our historic performance shows we are delivering better, faster, higher-quality service to the American people. Under President Donald J. Trump’s leadership, we are protecting and strengthening Social Security for generations to come.”

As a result of Commissioner Bisignano’s digital-first strategy, the agency has improved service delivery, streamlined operations, and strengthened its control environment to deliver the best performance in the history of the agency. The double-digit improvements in customer service achieved for the American people include:

- Reducing the National 800 Number average speed of answer from 34 minutes in fiscal year (FY) 2024 to 0.6 minutes in July 2026, a 98 percent reduction; and maintaining a 0 percent busy rate over the last four months.
- Growing online services, surpassing more than 104 million total my Social Security accounts created and completing 505 million online transactions FY 2026 to date, a 35 percent increase from the same period in FY 2024.
- Shortening the average field office wait times by 30 percent while serving 25 million visitors.

• Reducing the initial disability claims backlog by over 30 percent, from a high of nearly 1.3 million in FY 2024 to 884 thousand in July 2026; and decreasing disability hearing wait times over 90 days, reaching historic lows.

- Saving \$16 billion with a better control environment.
- Reconciling the Social Security Number (SSN) database for the first time ever to remove deceased people, update citizenship data, and verify status of individuals – over 10 percent of all active SSNs have been updated.

These service and control improvements have saved the public nearly 50 million hours in time that would have been spent waiting for service in fiscal year 2024 and billions of dollars.

For more information about Social Security’s services, visit www.ssa.gov. Americans who have not yet created a personal my Social Security account, can get started today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

Have You Renewed Your Subscription?

Senior Citizens Menu

Meals Are Served With Water and Milk

Thursday, August 20 — Tuna Sandwich, RS Corn Chowder, Lettuce & Tomato, 1% Milk, Fresh Orange.

Friday, August 21 — Chicken Cordon Bleu, California Vegetable Blend, Scalloped Potatoes, Whole Grain White Roll, Ambrosia Salad, 1% Milk, Margarine.

Monday, August 24 — Cheese Burger Deluxe, Red Fat/Red Cal Broccoli, Raisin Salad, Roasted Potatoes & Carrots, Gelatin Cup SE, Orange/Strawberries, 1% Milk.

Tuesday, August 25 — Oven Fried Chicken Breast, Banana, Whole Grain White Roll, Col-lard Greens, Au Gratin Potatoes, 1% Milk.

Wednesday, August 26 — Orange Glazed Chicken, Fried Rice, Vegetable Egg Roll, 1% Milk, Stir Fry Vegetable Blend, Fresh Orange.

Thursday, August 27 — Roast Turkey, Baked Potato, Whole Grain White Roll, Margarine, Sour Cream, Herb Glazed Carrots, 1% Milk, Diced Pears.

WRITE IT DOWN

Politics determine who has the power, not who has the truth. —PAUL KRUGMAN

Blood drive is today at W.L Christian Church

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Only you can prevent blood shortages, and that starts by donating blood at an upcoming Kentucky Blood Center blood drive in your community.

Blood cannot be manufactured. That means the health of the blood supply – and the patients who rely on it for a variety of needs – is entirely dependent on donors giving blood at drives like this one.

The Morgan County Community Blood Drive will 1-6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, at the West Liberty Christian Church Fellowship Hall, located at 304 Prestonsburg St. in West Liberty.

Donors will receive a limited-edition “Only You Can Prevent Blood Shortages” T-shirt & a \$15 Walmart gift card (while supplies last) as a

thank you for doing their part to ensure a healthy blood supply.

Patients in Central and Eastern Kentucky count on KBC donors. Kentucky Blood Center provides blood to more than 70 local hospitals. Unfortunately, blood donations often decrease in the summer because of warm-weather activities, family vacations and no school.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health, show a photo I.D. and meet additional requirements. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. To schedule a donation, visit kybloodcenter.org or call 800.775.2522.

Don’t Forget To Renew Your Subscription!

Available For Adoption



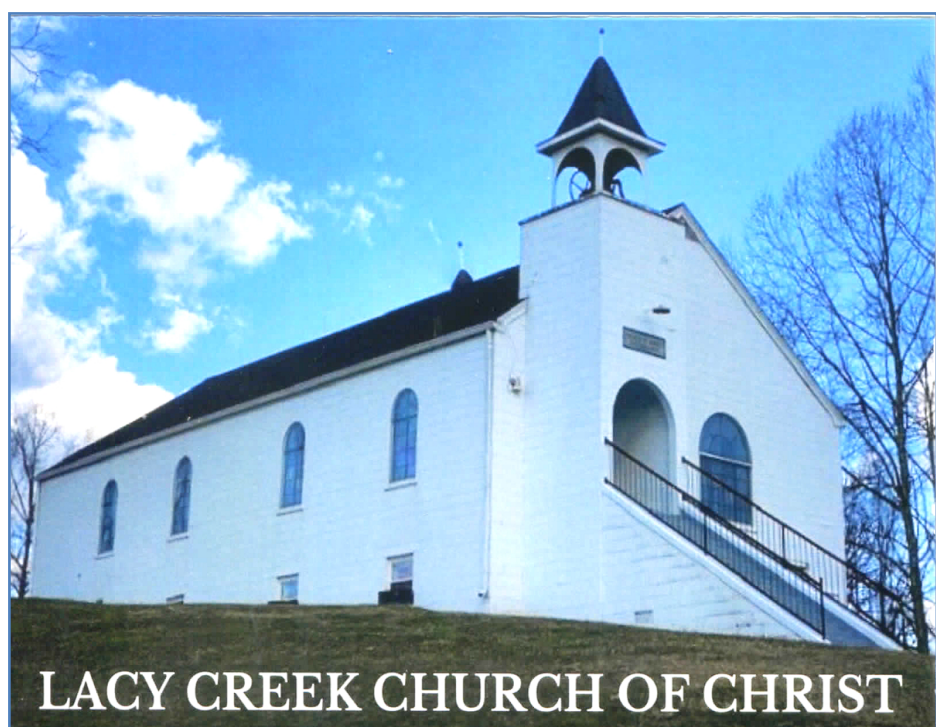
This is Dusty - a male 1 year old small mix. He is adorable.



This is Buster - a male 1 year old small mix. He’s a sweetheart.

For More Information: contact the Morgan County Animal Shelter at 743-2545 or stop by. Shelter Hours are Mon., - Fri. 10:00--2:00

Donations can be made to Helping Hands for Animals at P.O. Box 309, West Liberty, Ky. 41472 Located at 1854 Hwy. 205, West Liberty, Ky. 41472



LACY CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST

OLD FRIENDS & NEW ARE WELCOME TO

HOMEcoming

AT

LACY CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD

11:00 AM

JOIN US FOR A MESSAGE BY

ELDER JIMMY ADKINS

FOLLOWED BY

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & OLD TIME SINGING

HIGHWAY 364, WEST LIBERTY, KY

C-8-13-2TPD

The Key to Your Home Ownership Goals

From Home Loans to HELOCs, we are Morgan County’s trusted lending source. Call or visit us to start your application today.

Commercial Bank

(606) 743-3195 • www.commercialbankky.bank

550 Main Street • West Liberty, KY
1771 W. Main Street • West Liberty, KY

MEMBER
FDIC
Equal Housing Lender