

INSURANCE
FOR ALL!



HOME, AUTO, LIFE,
FARM

Ison

Insurance Agency, Inc

606-743-4472

facebook

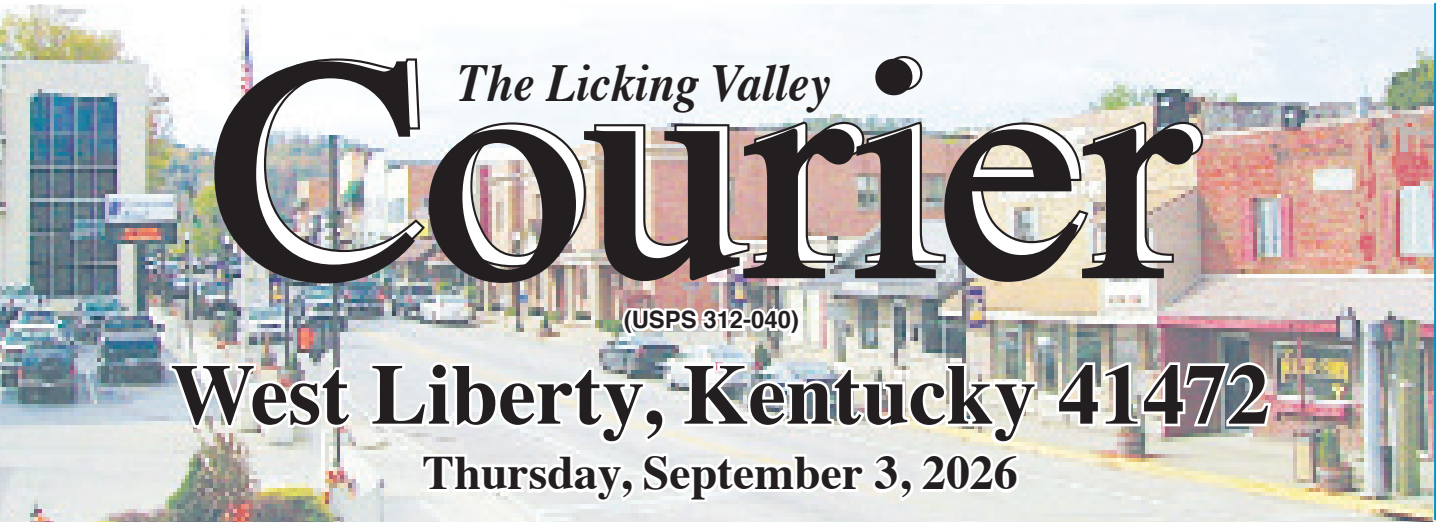
The Licking Valley

Courier

(USPS 312-040)

West Liberty, Kentucky 41472

Thursday, September 3, 2026



BUYING OR
SELLING?

YOUR HOME IS
MY PRIORITY



REBECCA SEXTON
REALTOR

BLUEGRASS REALTY

LAWSON

REAL ESTATE INC.

606-359-5288

Vol. 118— No. 22

SPEAKING OF AND FOR MORGAN, THE BLUEGRASS COUNTY OF THE MOUNTAINS

\$1.00 Per Copy

\$38.00 Year In County

\$41.00 Year In Kentucky

\$43.00 Year Outside Kentucky



FLICKER
TREE SERVICE
TREE TRIMMING
AND REMOVAL

207 Crockett Loop,
West Liberty, KY

(606) 495-1618

Owner: Millard Derstine

C-9-11-3T

Upcoming Events
At Morgan Co.
Extension Office

Fri., Sept. 4 - Farmers Mar-
ket 9am-7pm or sellout

Mon., Sept. 7 - All Ex-
tension offices statewide are
closed

Tues., Sept. 8 - Deadline to
sign up for the Hay Contest;
Country Cousins Homemaker
meeting 7pm; Woodsbend
Homemaker meeting 6:30pm
@ Woodsbend Church; Farm-
ers Market 9am-2pm

Thurs., Sept 10 - West Lib-
erty Homemaker meeting 7pm

Fri., Sept. 11 - Farmers Mar-
ket 9am-7pm or sellout

Sat., Sept. 12 - Hike and
Learn 9am; 4-H State Shoot @
Wilmore, Ky.

Mon., Sept 14 - BeeKeepers
Meeting 6:30pm; CEC meeting
@ noon; Mahjong Monday
10am & 5:30pm @ Extension

See EVENTS, Page 8

DAV meeting scheduled
for Friday, Sept. 4th

Morgan County DAV Chap-
ter 132 will hold its regular
meeting on Friday, September
4. We will meet in the Morgan
County Fiscal Court Room
at 7 p.m. We have many fall
activities to plan. All veterans
are welcome. Hope to see you
there.

Emily Elam
Adjutant Ch. 132
District 7 Cmdr.

Circus Slated This
Friday And Saturday
At Fairgrounds

The circus is coming to town!

Experience the pure magic and wonderment of one of America's
last big-top family circuses! Circus Grimaldi is bringing its spectacular,
high-flying production to West Liberty for two days only!

Events will be at the Morgan County Fairgrounds. Dates and show
times are as follows:

• Friday, Sept. 4 – 7 p.m.

• Saturday, Sept. 5 – 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Midway opens 1 hour before each show time for family fun!
See amazing attractions! Witness incredible acts performing live
under the historic Big Top, featuring:

• Breathtaking Aerialists

• Mind-bending Contortionists

• Daring Acrobats

• Master Jugglers

• Hilarious and Funny Clowns

Ticket Information

Bring the whole family out for an unforgettable, affordable tradition!

See CIRCUS, Page 5



Team Heart and Stroke 5K run/walk
set Sat., Sept. 12th, at Old Mill Park

Team Heart & Stroke will
host its 2nd Annual 5K Run/
Walk and Kids 1-Mile Fun Run
on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Old
Mill Park with proceeds ben-
efiting the Ronald McDonald
House in honor and memory of
two very special heart heroes,
Piper and Hayes.

Registration begins at 7:30
a.m., and the race begins at 9:00
a.m. Runners, walkers, fami-
lies, and children of all ages are
encouraged to participate.

Now is the time to grab a
friend, lace up those walking
or running shoes, and join us!
You do not have to be a run-
ner—walk, jog, bring the kids,

or come out to cheer. We just
want YOU there!

Piper and Hayes were both
born at just 28 weeks with se-
rious congenital heart defects,
beginning a journey that would
keep their family in Cincinnati
for one year and 23 days.

During that time, Piper un-
derwent one heart catheteriza-
tion and one open-heart surgery.
Today, her heart is doing great,
and she continues to grow,
thrive, and inspire those around
her.

Hayes underwent four heart
catheterizations and three open-
heart surgeries during his coura-
geous fight. Sadly, Hayes lost

his battle and gained his angel
wings. His life, strength, and
memory continue to inspire
Team Heart & Stroke and ev-
eryone who has followed the
family's journey.

The annual race is an op-
portunity for the community
to come together to celebrate
Piper, remember Hayes, sup-
port other families facing dif-
ficult medical journeys, and give
back to the Ronald McDonald
House, which provides a home
away from home for families
while their children receive
medical care.

This year's fundraising ef-
ort

See 5K, Page 3

Fiscal Court hears
water district audit
report presentation

Clean audit opinion and significant financial
improvements are noted; multiple visitors address
the court during regular Aug. 27th meeting

By Miranda M. Cantrell

The Morgan Fiscal Court
during a regular Aug. 27
meeting heard a presentation
from a representative of an
independent accounting firm
that recently audited the Mor-
gan County Water District
(MCWD).

Water District Audit
Report

Judge Executive Jim Gazay
introduced Hunter Short, of
the Lexington-based firm RFH
CPAs & Consultants, who ap-
peared via video call to share
the results of MCWD's most
recent audit.

Short indicated that he had
assisted with the financial ex-
amination, and told the court
that MCWD had received a
“clean opinion”, as per a post-
audit letter that was issued by
the firm:

“In our opinion, the finan-
cial statements referred to
above present fairly, in all
material respects, the respec-

tive financial position of the
Morgan County Water District,
as of Dec. 31, 2025, and 2024,
and the respective changes in
financial position, and cash
flows thereof for the years then
ended in accordance with ac-
counting principles generally
accepted in the United States
of America.”

Short noted that the audit
yielded two findings, as out-
lined in the report:

• 2025-001 – Internal Con-
trol Over Period-End Finan-
cial Reporting – CAUSE: The
District failed to provide proper
oversight over period-end fi-
nancial reporting, which re-
sulted in misstated accounting
records prior to performance
of the audit. EFFECT: The
District relied on auditor pre-
pared accounting adjustments
to ensure financial records were
properly stated in accordance
with the generally accepted ac-
counting principals. The Dis-
trict reviewed, approved and

See COURT, Page 3

Minutes from Aug. 27th
fiscal ct. meeting listed

The following is an unof-
ficial listing of all items ap-
proved during the regular Aug.
27 meeting of the Morgan
County Fiscal Court:

Present members includ-
ed magistrates Brandon Ev-
ans, Tommy Fannin, Tyler
Keeton, Eric Pelfrey and Leroy
Phipps, and Judge Executive
Jim Gazay.

• Motion Passed – Approval
of the minutes of the July 30,
2026, meeting of the Morgan
County Fiscal Court. Passed
with a motion by Brandon
Evans and a second by Tommy
Fannin.

Vote – Yes: Brandon Evans,
Tommy Fannin, Tyler Keeton
and Leroy Phipps. Abstain:
Eric Pelfrey.

• Motion Passed – Approval
of the minutes of the Aug. 11,

2026,meeting of the Morgan
County Fiscal Court.

Vote – Yes: Brandon Evans,
Tommy Fannin, Tyler Keeton
and Eric Pelfrey. Abstain: Le-
roy Phipps.

• Motion Passed – Approval
of the financial statement end-
ing July 31, 2026, as presented.
Passed with a motion by Bran-
don Evans and a second by Eric
Pelfrey.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

• Motion Passed – Approval
of changes to the budgeted
charge of accounts as present-
ed. Passed with a motion by
Tommy Fannin and a second
by Brandon Evans.

Vote – Unanimous yes.

• Motion Passed – Approval
and adoption of budget amend-
ments #2, #3 and #4 as pre-
sented.

See MINUTES, Page 3



NO
DEALER FEES

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN

SXT, AUTO, FWD, V6,
95,526 MILES

\$10,900

See All Our Vehicles At www.morgantirecenter.com.

Morgan Tire Center, Inc.

1592 West Main Street
West Liberty, Kentucky

Phone: 606/743-7350 Or 606/743-4663



WE KEEP THEM UP HERE FOR A REASON.
STAY CLEAR OF DOWNED POWER LINES.

Helping members use electricity safely,
that's the power of your co-op membership.

LICKING
VALLEY

Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

QUALITY
QUICK LUBE, LLC

123 Hwy. 191
West Liberty, Ky. 41472

Oil Change

Fast, Courteous Service

No Appointment Necessary

NOW OFFERING
BRAKE SERVICES!

HOURS:

Monday-Thursday - 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday - 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday - 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Phone (606) 743-2120

Morgan Tire Center, Inc.

1592 West Main Street
West Liberty, Kentucky

Phone: 606/743-7350 Or 606/743-4663

Nobody Does It Better!

Mufflers & Exhaust



Failing an emissions test is
usually the fault of either
the muffler or the
exhaust system.

Garages



Petre Construction LLC dba

Creekside
BUILDINGS

Design
Your Own!

(606) 522-4894

Hi-Side
With Lofts

