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Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex.
(Photograph by John Cheves/The Lexington Herald-Leader)

Auditor: No findings in recent Morgan Co. Fiscal Court audit

Judge executive issues statement following the release of audit report for 2024-2025 fiscal year

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball has released the audit of the financial statements of the Morgan County Fiscal Court for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. State law requires annual audits of county fiscal courts.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statements present fairly the receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances of the Morgan County Fiscal Court in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The fiscal court's financial statement did not follow this format.

However, the fiscal court's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology. This reporting methodology is followed for 116 of 120 fiscal court audits in Kentucky.

The auditor noted no instances of noncompliance. The auditor also noted no matters involving internal control over financial reporting and its operation that were considered to be material weaknesses.

The audit report can be found on the auditor's website at https://www.auditor.ky.gov/Auditreports/Morgan/2025MorganFC-audit.pdf.

Judge Releases Statement On Audit Report

Judge Executive Jim Gazay released the following statement regarding the audit:

To The People Of Morgan County:

The Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts has released the latest audit of the Morgan County Fiscal Court, and I am pleased to report that the examination contained no findings.

That result did not happen by accident. It is the product of careful, day-to-day work by our treasurer and finance staff, department heads, and the magistrates who sit with me on Fiscal Court. We have tightened procedures, improved monitoring of receipts and dis-

See AUDIT, Page 3

FROM THE LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

Slain inmate's wife sues KY Department of Corrections

By Taylor Six

Sept. 3 – The wife of a Kentucky prisoner killed at the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex has filed a federal lawsuit against the state department of corrections, alleging its inaction led to the death of Tony Broyles just nine days before he was set to be released.

The complaint, filed Aug. 31, primarily alleges the department of corrections and Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex failed to properly classify inmates based on their own policies, leading violent and non-violent offenders to share a cell.

Broyles had been at the prison since 2022 and was set to be released in September 2025 on good behavior credits after he was convicted of firearm possession.

But on Aug. 31, 2025, prison staff found Broyles dead inside his cell. His cellmate, Daelon Rice, was charged with Broyles' murder.

The lawsuit states Rice strangled Broyles to death using an electrical cord connected to a fan — an item that is prohibited in cells under the prison's own policies. Three staff members saw Rice using the fan, but failed to intervene, the lawsuit states.

Elgin claims Rice and her husband should have never been housed together because Rice had violent convictions, and had been disciplined for violent actions while incarcerated in multiple Kentucky prisons.

As a non-violent offender, the lawsuit claims Broyles should have been classified differently. The lawsuit alleges the prison and staff repeatedly denied or ignored Broyles' requests to be transferred to a new cell because of Rice's violent history.

What The Lawsuit Says

Rice is serving a 40-year-sentence for attempted murder of a police officer, first-degree domestic assault and being a persistent felony offender. While in prison, Rice has been accused of at least four assaults against other inmates, the lawsuit says. One incident included cutting another prisoner across the neck with a can lid.

See SUIT, Page 3

Bluegrass Gospel Sing at Pine Grove Church Sept. 12

The Pine Grove Bluegrass Gospel Sing 2026 will be Saturday, Sept. 12, at Pine Grove Community Church at 4000 Hwy. 882 in Ezel.

This free event will run from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., and will include the following groups:

- 12 p.m. – Peace of Bluegrass.
- 1 p.m. – Meadowgreen Trio.
- 2 p.m. – Stevens Family Tradition.
- 3 p.m. – Fenced In.
- 4 p.m. – Jeff Clair Band.
- 5 p.m. – West Liberty Mountain Boys.

The event will be held under a tent shelter. Bring a lawn chair. In case of rain, the event will be held in the church sanctuary. A love offering will be accepted. Everybody is invited to join us!

For additional information, contact Rick at 606-794-9665 or Naomi at 606-725-4739.

Morgan County Farm Bureau annual meeting set for Thurs., Sept. 17

The Morgan County Farm Bureau annual meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at the local Commercial Bank Conference Room, 550 Main St., West Liberty, Ky.

2T

Blood drive Sept. 17 at WL Christian Ch.

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The great thing about donating blood is that just about anyone can do it. No "dough" is needed to make a difference in your community – all it takes is a little bit of time and a pint of blood.

Grab a slice of saving lives by donating blood at this upcoming drive with the Kentucky Blood Center (KBC). All donors will receive a "Grab a Slice of Saving Lives" T-shirt (while supplies last) as a thank you for adding a key piece to the blood supply.

The Morgan County Community Blood Drive will be 1-6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at the West Liberty Christian Church fellowship hall located at 304 Prestonsburg St. in West Liberty.

KBC, the exclusive provider of blood to most hospitals in Central and Eastern Kentucky, is coming off a difficult summer. Donations, as they often do in the summer months, suffered because of seasonal vacations, an absence of school blood drives and extreme temperatures, which deter donors from attending drives. At the

See DRIVE, Page 3

Team Heart and Stroke 5K run/walk slated this Saturday at Old Mill Pk.

Proceeds to benefit Ronald McDonald House in honor of local children; registration at 7:30 a.m.

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 benefiting 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, families, and children of all ages are encouraged to participate.

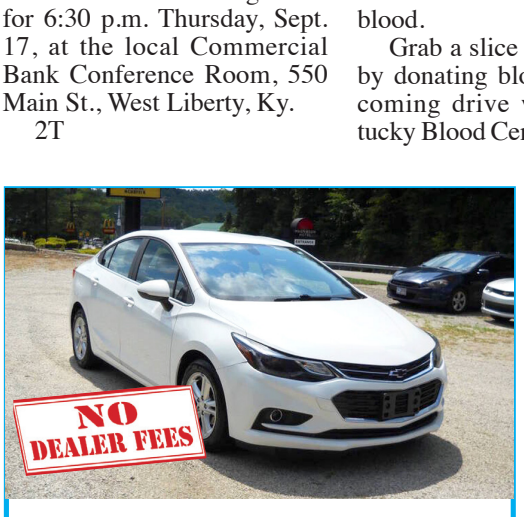
Now is the time to grab a friend, lace up those walking or running shoes, and join us! You do not have to be a runner—walk, jog, bring the kids, or come out to cheer. We just want YOU there!

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

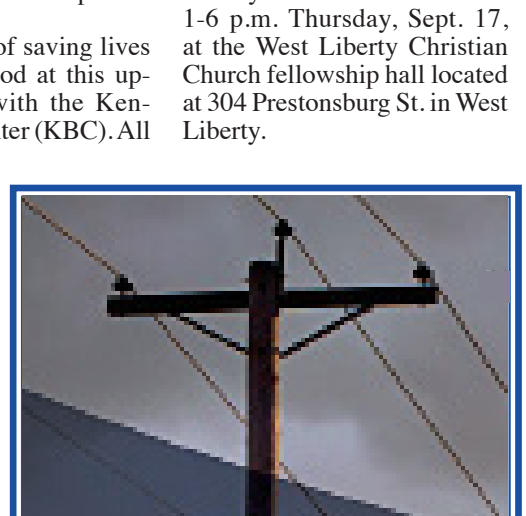
During that time, Piper underwent one heart catheterization and one open-heart surgery. Today, her heart is doing great, and she continues to grow, thrive, and inspire those around her.

Hayes underwent four heart catheterizations and three open-heart surgeries during his cou-

See 5K, Page 3



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