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Kiwanis Club Names Morgan DAV As Organization Of The Year



The West Liberty Kiwanis Club has named Morgan County DAV Chapter 132 as Organization of the Year. Kiwanian Brenda Morgan presented the award during a recent DAV meeting. Pictured left to right are DAV Chapter 132 members Carter Bolin, Walker Crase, Darris Hammons, Mike Alexander, John McClurg, Wayne Brown and Emily Elam, and Kiwanian Brenda Morgan. In addition to connecting veterans with healthcare, disability, employment, education and financial benefits they have earned through military service, the local DAV chapter also performs military honors at veterans' funerals in Morgan and surrounding counties. Congratulations to DAV Chapter 132 on this well-deserved award!

State auditor releases report on the 2024 audit of county clerk

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the 2024 financial statement of Morgan County Clerk Randy Williams.

State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Morgan County Clerk in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The clerk's financial statement did not follow this format.

However, the clerk'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 all 120 clerk audits in Kentucky.

Findings, Recommendations and Responses

• ***FINDING: The Morgan County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties –*** The Morgan County Clerk's office lacks adequate segregation of duties. This deficiency exists because one individual's duties include the preparation and reviewing of receipts and disbursements ledger and preparing monthly bank reconciliations. The county clerk has not structured his office in a way that segregates duties and responsibilities over accounting functions. The county clerk has also not provided sufficient oversight of the financial reporting process. A lack of oversight could result in misappropriation of assets or inaccurate financial reporting to external agen-

See AUDIT, Page 3

Morgan, Wolfe agencies rescue stranded hiker

Incident occured in Yocum Falls area; no injuries reported

Multiple agencies responded to an emergency call involving a stranded hiker on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 12, in the Yocum Falls area of Morgan County.

Sheriff Greg Motley told the Courier that West Liberty Police Dispatchers were notified of the incident at

See RESCUE, Page 3

Fire destroys local home over the weekend

West Liberty, Hwy. 519 and Blackwater fire departments respond; no injuries reported

Multiple fire departments responded to a house fire that occurred on the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 11, in the Old Hwy. 172 area.

West Liberty Fire Department (WLFD) Chief Jamie Phipps said that fire units were dispatched a residence at 271 Virginia Lane – which branches off from Walnut Road, an offshoot of Old Hwy. 172 – at approximately 4:50 p.m.

Chief Phipps also noted that due to the blaze being a confirmed structure fire, Hwy. 519 Fire Department was also paged to provide mutual aid.

West Liberty Police Department Chief Wayne Lewis told the Courier on Oct. 13 that the residence was owned by Quentin and Linda Nickell, and occupied by Greg Whitt.

Upon firefighters' arrival, heavy fire conditions prompted a request for aid from Blackwater Fire Department.

"A second alarm was transmitted to Blackwater Fire Department to bring two tankers due to the lack of water supply in the area," Chief Phipps said.

Additionally, Morgan County EMS personnel were on standby for firefighter rehab.

"Due to the spread of fire before firefighters' arrival, a full defensive attack was made," Chief Phipps said. "The structure suffered major damage resulting in a total loss."

Chief Phipps said no injuries were reported as a

See FIRE, Page 8

Multiple agencies respond to Oct. 8 prison bus crash

Incident occurred at Wrigley; bus was en route to EKCC

A prison bus crash prompted a multi-agency response on the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 8, in the Wrigley area.

Sheriff Greg Motley reported that the bus was carrying 12 inmates and three Kentucky Department of Correction staffers to Eastern Kentucky Correctional in West Liberty after departing from Little Sandy Correctional Complex in Sandy Hook.

The sheriff stated that the bus was traveling south on KY 7 when the rear tire struck a concrete bridge, causing the vehicle to bounce and eject two inmates from their seats.

Morgan County EMS personnel transported the

See CRASH, Page 3

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Freedom Bench Dedication Oct. 17 At Treadway Park

The Big Sandy Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will host a dedication ceremony for the Freedom Bench at Treadway Park on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 11 a.m. This bench honors the patriot men and women of the American Revolution, as well as all veterans who sacrifice for our freedom. The public is invited to attend this special event.



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