PUBLIC NOTICES

COMBINED NOTICE

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date: 11/11/2026

Letcher County Water & Sewer District
3443 US 119 N, Mayking, KY 41837
606-633-8550

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for the activities to be undertaken by the Letcher County Water & Sewer District.

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

Request for Release of Funds

On or about November 26th, 2026, the Letcher County Water & Sewer District will submit a request to the Department for Local Government for the release of ARC funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) to undertake the following project:

Regional Interconnect & Distribution Lines – Cumberland River Phase 4

The proposed project will provide a first-time source of potable water for approximately 180 households in Letcher County through the establishment of a regional interconnect with the City of Cumberland and the construction of distribution lines along the KY HWY 119 corridor in Letcher County. The project will lay the foundation from which distribution can be expanded through the remainder of the Cumberland River area in subsequent Phases III, II and I. Construction will include 13,800 LF of 8" PVC, 10,400 LF of 4" PVC, and 16,200 LF of 3" PVC for a total of 39,400 LF of new waterline extension. The project will also construct a 100,000-storage tank, a 250 GPM Pump Station, six flushing hydrants, six blow-off valves, sixteen 6" Gate Valve, six 4" Gate Valves, four 3" Gate Valves, three air release valves, one pressure Stabilizing valve, and a master meter.

(Purpose or Nature of the Project)
Partridge, Letcher County, Kentucky
9501 (Census Tract(s))

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Letcher County Water & Sewer District has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (PL-91190) is not required. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) respecting the project has been made by the Letcher County Water & Sewer District which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such a Statement is not required. This Environmental Review Record is available upon request at the Letcher County Water & Sewer District, 3443 US 119 N, Mayking, KY 41837 between the hours of 8:00 A.M EST / 7:00 AM CST and 4:00 P.M EST / 3:00 CST. No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted.

Public Comments

All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with the ERR decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration to the Letcher County Water & Sewer District Office. Such written comments should be received at 3443 US 119 N, Mayking, KY 41837, or Jennifer.asher@kradd.org on or before November 26th, 2026. All comments received will be considered before authorizing the submission of a request for the release of funds or taking any administrative action on the project before the date specified in the preceding sentence. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

Environmental Certification

The Letcher County Water & Sewer District will undertake the project described above with ARC funds from the Department for Local Government under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Letcher County Water & Sewer District is certifying to the state that the Letcher County Water & Sewer District and Dianne Adams, in her official capacity as Chairman, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities concerning environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the Letcher County Water & Sewer District may use the ARC funds, and the state and ARC will have satisfied their responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities.

Objection to Release of Funds

The state will accept objections to its release of funds and the Letcher County Water & Sewer District certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission dates or its actual receipt for the request (whichever is the later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

(a) The certification was not executed by the Letcher County Water & Sewer District Certifying Officer.
(b) The Letcher County Water & Sewer District has failed to make one of the two findings according to S58.41 or to make the written determination decision required by SS578.57, 58.53, or 58.64 for the project, as applicable.
(c) The Letcher County Water & Sewer District has omitted one or more of the steps outlined in Subparts F and G for the preparation and completion of an EA.
(d) No opportunity was given to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation or its Executive Director to review the effect of the project on a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places or found to be eligible for such listing by the Secretary of the Interior, per 36 CFR Part 800.
(e) The recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs, or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR part 58 before approval of the release of funds and approval of the Environmental Certification by ARC or the State.
(f) Another Federal agency acting according to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted following the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Department for Local Government, Office of Federal Grants, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Ste. 340, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the state. No objection received after December 28th, 2026, will be considered by the state. Potential objectors should contact the Department for Local Government to verify the actual last day of the state Comment period.

Dianne Adams, Chairman
3443 US 119 N, Mayking, KY 41837

Families and friends

Colder weather brings back memories of home

By ROSE BALLARD

Hello, everyone! How is everything in your neck of the woods?

Unless you are living in Florida, I would say it is brisk, or maybe even freezing.

I'll try to start this column without complaining, but once again, my computer acted up. Thanks to my daughter, Kay Gray, for coming to the rescue. My granddaughter Jodi Davidson and great-granddaughter Rylee Kay Davidson were with her. Kay had an appointment, so they didn't stay long.

As they were leaving, I reminded Kay that we had four generations together. Of course, Rylee Kay had to get on the porch swing, as that is her favorite spot when she is here.

While they were here, the subject of traveling to warmer places came up. Several years ago, Clarence and Kay, along with Jeff and Lisa Swisher, traveled to a place called Jamaica, wherever that is. You should have heard Kay laughing when I informed them there was only one place I was interested in traveling to—the mountains of eastern Kentucky, which will always be home in my heart.

Clarence and Kay have traveled to several foreign places. I do remember that on one trip, they forgot to pack shoes for Clarence. The price they had to pay for a new pair was ridiculous.

For health reasons, it has been two years since I have ventured to the mountains. I was hoping I could get down there before the end of this year, but sometimes we just have to accept the situation, adapt and deal with it.

My thoughts are traveling back in time to when we lived in Roxana in a home with fireplaces in the bedrooms. I can still see Mommy banking the fire at night.

Banking meant Mommy would use a poker to shake down the ashes, then use a small shovel to place ashes over the fire. Early the next morning, she would stir the ashes so the fire would burn again.

After Mommy got the fireplace going, she would go into the kitchen to build a fire in the cookstove. Sometimes there was a problem: The water bucket would freeze, which meant Mommy would place it on the stove cap to thaw.

We are talking about 3 a.m., when Mommy would start fixing a breakfast of biscuits, gravy, sliced salt pork and fried eggs.

Southern Ohio

In the meantime, Mommy would fix Daddy's lunch, put it in an aluminum bucket and then wake him up. After Daddy left for work, Mommy would put the food on the back of the stove for us kids. Daddy didn't have a car, so he would start walking, hoping someone would give him a ride.

Daddy never knew what it was like to come home to a cold house.

Speaking of traveling back in time, my thoughts are also going back to when I first started writing for The Mountain Eagle. I don't know the exact date, but I do know for sure that I didn't have a computer.

This column started as a handwritten letter to the editor sent through the mail. After that, I received a message asking if I would like to write a column each week. That was probably close to 30 years ago.

I later bought a typewriter, even though I had no idea how to use one. So I taught myself. In those days, I had to send the column to Whitesburg by regular mail.

If I am not mistaken, I still have the typewriter upstairs someplace. Since I can't get up the steps nowadays, I guess it will be thrown out with a lot of other things.

Of course, along came the computer years later. I didn't know diddly-squat about what to do with one, but thanks to my then-very young granddaughter Jodi, I was able to learn.

So many years have passed since then. Jodi is now married to Carl Davidson, and they have a 5-year-old daughter, Rylee Kay Davidson, whom I mentioned earlier.

Over the years of writing this column, I have received so many wonderful compliments through cards, letters and conversations.

So far, the weather has been nice for November. I hope it stays like this. Did I say I don't care for cold weather?

Hello to Mike and Marcia Caudill. I sure wish I could head your way.

Hello to Bernice, Chuck, Mike and Blaze Grubb.

Bernice, please be careful so you don't fall again and injure your shoulder.

Hello, Jim Haynes. Have you planted mustard or turnip greens in your garden?

Hello to Ron and Brenda Brown Cox. Please keep them in your prayers.

Until next time,

Rose Ballard
9110 Lawrenceburg Rd.
Harrison, Ohio 45030

Trivia test

By FIFI RODRIGUEZ

1. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of South Carolina?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to Mount Kilimanjaro?
3. COMICS: Who is Wonder Woman's mother?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What is kombucha?
5. MOVIES: What is the main family's name in "The Godfather" movies?
6. LITERATURE: Who is the author of the novel "The Martian"?
7. MATH: How many sides does a heptadecagon have?
8. TELEVISION: What is the name of the women's prison in "Orange is the New Black"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are espadrilles?
10. HISTORY: What was the main marketplace in ancient Greece called?

Answers

1. Columbia.
2. Tanzania, Africa.
3. Queen Hippolyta.
4. Fermented tea.
5. Corleone.
6. Andy Weir.
7. 17.
8. Litchfield Penitentiary.
9. Summer footwear, usually made of canvas.
10. The Agora.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

6	9	2	4	5	7	8	3	1
7	5	3	8	9	1	4	6	2
4	1	8	3	6	2	9	5	7
8	6	5	1	4	9	2	7	3
2	4	1	5	7	3	6	8	9
3	7	9	6	2	8	5	1	4
9	8	6	7	3	4	1	2	5
5	2	7	9	1	6	3	4	8
1	3	4	2	8	5	7	9	6

Weekly SUDOKU

6		2	4				3	
	5		8	9	1		6	
4	1	8	3					7
8	6		1	4		2		3
			5	7			8	
3			6	2	8	5	1	
9		6		3				
5		7					4	
1			2					6

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals
This is to give notice that the Letcher County Fiscal Court has determined that the following proposed action under the KY Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Single-Family New Construction Program – Thornton Site (22D-020) is partially located in the floodplain, and the Letcher County Fiscal Court will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project location is at Thornton Road in Letcher County, Kentucky (82°46'25" W, 37°10'37"N).

The project will consist of the acquisition of 16 acres of land and the subsequent development of an estimated 11 residential single-family houses and associated utility infrastructure as a part of the EKY Single Family New Construction Program, funded by HUD Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery. The southern portion of the project site is in the 100- and 500-year floodplain. The floodplain functions as a source of water conveyance and is intrinsically valuable to the local environment. Up to 2 acres of floodplain may be potentially impacted. While portions of lots are in the floodplain, the footprints of residential structures are not proposed to be built in the floodplain. If it is determined that any of the homes must be located in the floodplain, they will be elevated, at minimum, to base flood elevation plus two feet.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about the floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain; it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Written comments must be received by Letcher County Fiscal Court at the following address on or before 11/27/2026. Letcher County Fiscal Court, 156 Main Street, Suite 107, Whitesburg, KY 41858 and 606-633-2129, Attention: Terry Adams, Judge Executive. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00am – 4:00pm at 156 Main Street, Suite 107. Comments may also be submitted via email to Paige Tucker at ptucker@fahe.org

Date: 11/11/2026

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