County, state negotiate on Aarons Run bridge project

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

Montgomery County Judge-Executive Chris Haddix informed the Advocate that he has negotiated a deal with the state Transportation Cabinet that could get the Aarons Run bridge project completed by the end of the year.

Residents along the road have expressed concern with delays getting the project moving.

District 7 of the state Transportation Cabinet closed the 50-foot long bridge in July 2025 due to deterioration of the superstructure.

"I have had multiple conversations with the folks out in that area of the county," Haddix told the Advocate. "They all have very legitimate concerns with this bridge closure. These concerns included commute times, public safety concerns and the hardship that closing this bridge has caused to farming along that stretch of road. We have all stayed in touch throughout this process. From these conversations, we were able to work with state Sen. Greg Elkins, who helped spearhead the talks with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet."

Haddix explained where the agreement was reached.

"Annually the state gives each county funds to improve county road systems," he said. "This money can be returned to the state to improve state rural secondary roads. There is a chance that if we do not return this money to the transportation cabinet, this bridge will not be able to be reopened until the 2028 state highway plan is agreed upon. Through negotiations with the KYTC, they have agreed to split the cost of this bridge with the county. According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet this bridge could be open by the end of this year."

This was welcome news to the residents who recently complained to the Advocate about the bridge.

Shannon Lansdale, who told the Advocate he had to travel an extra 12 miles each trip to reach the other side his farm due to the bridge closure, thanked Haddix for getting the project moving.

"I give all the credit to Chris Haddix," Lansdale said. "Chris kept pushing back on it. He hung with it."

Lansdale's only concern was that the county might have to spend some of its own money for the replacement of the bridge, which he says is the state's responsibility.

Aarons Run is a state, rather than county, bridge.

Allen "Buck" Prewitt is now optimistic after a long wait. He owns a farm on Aarons Run.

"I will really be pleased when it happens," he said.

John Judy is another farmer whose property is split by the bridge and has to travel out of his way to move silage along Paris Pike.

"That would tickle me to death. I will believe it when I see it. It has been a big inconvenience, but it is promising. Lets hope it materializes."

Youth Salute honorees recognized

According to a release, 642 outstanding leaders from 69 high schools in central Kentucky are being recognized in this year's "Youth Salute." The 46th annual awards ceremony was held in their honor Sunday, May 3, hosted at Transylvania University. A top Youth Leader was named for each high school as well as "Youth Leaders of the Year."

The release adds that $131,000 was presented in scholarships and other awards. Asbury University, Eastern Kentucky University, Georgetown College, Midway University and Transylvania University each provided $20,000 in scholarships. Bluegrass Community and Technical College provided $22,320. Private businesses provided an additional $9,400 in scholarships and other awards.

The Central Kentucky Council on Youth Leadership was formed in 1980 to conduct the "Youth Salute" in nearby counties in cooperation with the National Council on Youth Leadership, a non-profit organization. Students were nominated by teachers, guidance counselors and principals for this year's "Youth Salute." In order to qualify, the student had to be a junior (senior class of 2027), have a 3.0 G.P.A. or better and have held at least two leadership roles to which they were chosen by their peers or an adult leader within the past two years in school, religious or community sponsored organizations.

Receiving an Outstanding Leadership $100 Award, presented by Central Bank & Trust and Holifield Photography from Montgomery County was Maci Harris. Harris was also named the Top Youth Leader for Montgomery County.

Holifield Photography (Lexington) photographed each student nominated and created a display, including a biographical sketch. A banner with the students' photographs will be sent to each high school for display in their school. The banners were displayed at Fayette Mall this summer.

Central Kentucky Council on Youth Leadership

Laura Olivia Ellington



Montgomery County High School

Laura Olivia Ellington has been a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps-Command Sgt. Major-2025-2026, an FFA Committee Chairman for Growing Leaders-2025-2026; a Future Farmers of America-Agriscience Fair-Animal Systems Division 2-first place winner, a Future Farmers of America-Agriscience Fair-Animal Systems Division 4-first place winner; and Futer Farmers of America-Agriscience Fair-Animal Systems Division 3-second place winner. In addition, she received the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps-Presidential Award United States Army Outstanding Cadet-2024, 2025, the Junior Rservie Officer Training Corps-Academic Excellence-2024, 2025 honor and was the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps-Color Guard Commander-2025 as well as involved in the National Beta Club. Laura plans to major in animal science with hopes of attending veterinary school.

Additional Youth Salute honorees will appear in upcoming issues.

Down Memory Lane

2016

A clean air ordinance, also known as a public smoking ban, failed to pass the Montgomery County Fiscal Court.

Cay Lane announced her retirtement as executive director of the Gateway Regional Arts Center. Jeanette Tesmer was announced as her replacement.

Hayden Shepherd received a key to the city for raising money to purchase hanging baskets for downtown as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Hayden Gooding, Julianne Williams, Laura Flannery and Gloria Sue Rogers were honored as part of the Youth Salute program.

Macey Tipton, Adam Reed, Adam Barnett, Stephen Vanover and Colton Stull were Students of the Month at the Montgomery County Area Technology Center.

Dennis Olson scored a hole-in-one at Eagle Trace Golf Course in Morehead.

Kayden Kratzer had his picture taken atop a fire truck.

Sisters Emma, 1, and Olivia Berry, dressed as a kitty and a cop for the city of Jeffersonville's Trunk N Treat event.

Emma Thomas, 2, was dressed as Elsa for the event.

Jennie Walters was a senior on the Montgomery County High School volleyball team.

Ian King was a sophomore on the MCHS boys' soccer team.

Haley Buck was Indian of the Week in the Advocate.

C.A. Collins was MCHS Football Player of the Week.

Jake Harvvey rushed for 189 yards in a MCHS football victory over Woodford County.

2006

The community mourned the loss of Sgt. Garth Sizemore, who was killed in action in Iraq.

Josh Gentry enjoyed a beefburger at the Montgomery County Cattlemen's Association food booth.

Valerie Scott discussed the city's fooding woes with Steven Vierling and Ron Holmberg with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at a public hearing held at the Montgomery County Health and Civic Center.

Giggles and Grins Too Preschool attended the Two Sisters Pumpkin Patch.

Kentucky State Police Sgt. Shawn Smart answered questions at a drug interdiction training program held locally.

Madison Martin was a member of the Ky. Elite, a cheerleading squate that placed first in a national competition.

Ryan Hackworth was a member of the MCHS football team.

Matt Hall was a member of the MCHS cross country team.

Annie Stadig was Indian of the Week in the Advocate.

Josh Clark was Scout Team Player of the Week for the MCHS football team.

Isaac Goodpaster joined Hoffman-Robertson Insurance.

Mt. Sterling City Clerk Joyce Stakelin and Mayor Gary Williamson were recognized for completing requirement for the Gold Level Award in the Public Officials Essential Skills Institute hosted by the Kentucky League of Cities.

Brady McGuire and Andrew Henderson won a drawing for perfect attendance achievers at Camargo Elementary School.

Jenna High was a Star Attender at MCHS.

Donna Amburgey attended the 2006 Energy Summit in Louisville, where she was pictured with Gov. Ernie Fletcher.

Alexis Elizabeth Michelle Roberts was born to Corey and Ashley Roberts at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington.

1996

Shelby Blevins, 4, and her cousin, Sarah Purvis, 5, toured the Court Days festivities in a small wagon.

Fifteen-month-old P.J. Henderson was recovering after a liver transplant.

"The First Wives Club" played at Studio Stage Cinema.

Dorothy Saunders shopped for deals with her granddaughter, Cyndi Thomas, at Court Days.

Shelby Lindon was the Advocate's Montgomery Neighbor.

Kela Scott sported a new hat at Court Days.

Lesley Vice was a senior on the MCHS girls' soccer team.

Victoria Orme was the incoming president of the 4-H Council. Phyllis Tempest was the outgoing president.

Jim Burton sold pizza at Court Days for the high school junior class.

Katie Coyne, a 4-H Teen Clover, gave Sara Ditterline of Indiana some face paint at Court Days.

Kelly Nass, a sophomore attending Drake University, received a presidential scholarship.

Montgomery County Bass Club Vice President Mike Arrasmith fished with his nephew, Dillion Arrasmith at Easy Walker Park at Fish "N" Fun Day.

U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Marvin Barnett arrived for duty at Kunsan Air Base in Kunsan City, South Korea.

U.S. Army Reserve Pfc. Roy N. Miller graduated from the construction equipment repairer course at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

Brooke Griffith, Mason Guy and Michael Henderson received scholarships at Eastern Kentucky University.

Gabriel Lee Cartmill was born to Rachel and Jamie Cartmill at Mary Chiles Hospital.

Lauren Lockridge, Brittany Hunt, Jordan Ginter, Amber Downs and Brandi Garrett made monotypes as part of a class project at Mapleton Elementary School.

1986

Thompson's IGA became Thomps's Piggly Wiggly.

Byron and Assoociates, led by Tom Byron, received an ad campaign award.

Don Wilson was Mt. Sterling Kentucky Utilities Office Manager.

Carla Taul, 4, enjoyed some cotton candy at Court Days.

Three-year-old Jeris Gibbs rode on the shoulder of his father, Jerry Gibbs, at Court Days.

Senior members of the MCHS soccer team were honored. They were Tena Bell, Richard Fuller, Chris Collier, Monroe Clemons and Ben Lane.

Mike Eads was a senior running back on the MCHS football team.

Frankie Becraft place first in seed identification in a regional FFA competition.

The MCHS land judging team of Tony Arnett, Scott Barnett, James Collins, Mike Thorne and Jamie Bromagen took second place in the regional competition.

John Willoughby, Mike

See DML, Page A5

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES
Display and Legal—noon Monday
Classified—10 a.m. Tuesday

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
$42.10 per year for Montgomery
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Out-of-state (in continental U.S.), $50.49 per year
E-edition in state, $35
E-edition out of state, $35
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