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STAY CONNECTED



Hospital Board sees increase in patients, amends tax rate

BY GRACE BOATRIGHT JACHIM
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An increase in patient volume, better financials, and an adjustment to the tax rate served as the primary points of the Sept. 8 Marshall County Hospital Board meeting.

During the August meeting, the board elected to maintain the tax rate from the previous

year, which was 3.3. After that meeting it was determined that, due to an increase in the county tax base, that rate would generate more than 4% more revenue than the previous year.

A revenue increase of 4% is the maximum allowed by law without a public hearing.

In order to come back

into the standard allowance, the board elected to lower the rate to 3.2 per \$100 of assessed value. This means that the amount of tax charged on a property has decreased, but if the assessed value of a home has increased, then the property owners may see an increase

SEE BOARD/PAGE A2



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The Marshall County Hospital Board regularly meets on the first Tuesday of each month at noon.



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Several families took to Mike Miller Park to let their children play during the holiday.

Marshall County celebrates Labor Day

BY GRACE BOATRIGHT JACHIM
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As Labor Day arrives, so too does the unofficial end of summer. Many families celebrated with time on the water, a trip to local parks, and simply by spending time together.

The beach at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park saw a number of families fill the banks and enjoy the sun and water. The state park's marina also saw considerable boat traffic.

Meanwhile the lower dam area was full of fishers, some on boats

and some from the piers.

While Kentucky Lake is a crowd favorite for summer fun, many families opted to spend their Labor Day making use of the county parks system. Some groups took to the playground while others played disc golf. Some took advantage of the splash pad, and others opted to fish in the pond.

The Dunker family often spends Labor Day on the lake, but decided to spend the holiday a bit more slowly this year. Stephanie Dunker shared that the family had begun the day walking along a creek with

their dog, Marley, before deciding to head to Mike Miller Park.

"They're big on park going," said Dunker. "They like swinging and playing and just hanging out, so that's what we decided to do. Just a relaxing weekend, we usually hang out at the lake, but we decided not to do that this year."

A similar route was taken by the Teodozow family. Eric and Arista Teodozow brought their daughter to the park, and simply set out to enjoy having a slow weekend.

SEE LABOR/PAGE A2

Benton to see \$1.2 million sidewalk expansion through grant funding

BY GRACE BOATRIGHT JACHIM
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After four years of work, the city of Benton has been awarded \$1.2 million for sidewalk expansion through a Transportation Alternatives Program grant.

The program allows for cities to receive a grant to expand bicycle and pedestrian pathways that meet certain requirements like the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Safe Routes to School program.

The TAP grant program is an 80/20 matching program, meaning the city will provide 20% of the funds to reach the \$1.2 million total. The city's responsibility is roughly \$240,000.

Benton Mayor Rita Dotson shared that the city was initially awarded a lower amount after its initial application in 2022, but due to the time required on the project, the cost of materials increased. Dotson said that left the city with two options — cut some streets from the project, or find more funding. So, the city requested more funding, which led to the award announcement on Sept. 3.

Dotson believes the area involved, beginning with West Eighth Street before involving streets branching off from there, is in great need of more sidewalks. She noted that many households in that area of town do not have a vehicle, and the addition of sidewalks will allow those individuals access to the post office, several restaurants, grocery stores, a clinic, a bank, and more.

Beyond West Eighth Street, the project is set to include Commerce Boulevard, Morningside Drive, a portion of West

SEE SIDEWALK/PAGE A3

Emergency Management encourages storm safety preparedness

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Marshall County Emergency Management Director Curt Curtner is encouraging everyone to review their severe weather preparations as Kentucky Emergency Management marks National Preparedness Month.

"We try to push out different ideas and plans to the people, stuff that they should have, [and] be prepared for," said Curtner. "Have a go kit, and a go bag, and all that stuff."

When it comes to preparedness recommendations, Curtner opts for the basics, encouraging people to ensure they have access to a notification system.

"First thing, they've got to have some kind of notification system, be it their radios, be it their TVs, telephone apps, there's many of them out there right now and they're about the best that you can have, or you can have an old weather radio," said Curtner. "You've got to remember that with TV and radio, if there's

no power you're not going to be able to use them. If you're like me, sometimes I forget to change the batteries in my radio."

Curtner then spoke on the importance of heeding those warnings, noting that the National Weather Service and related agencies only release notices when necessary.

"It seems like a lot of people think that they push too much stuff out," said Curtner. "They're not getting

SEE STORM/PAGE A2



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EM Director Curt Curtner encourages storm safety during National Preparedness Month.



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INDEX

Church.....B7
Obituary.....A3
Sports.....B1-3
Classified.....B7-8

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