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Electric vehicle charging station coming to Perry County



BY JUSTIN BEGLEY
STAFF WRITER

A new electric vehicle (EV) charging station is set to be installed at Perry County Park, officials announced during the Fiscal Court meeting on Jan. 9.

Bill McIntosh, Perry County community development coordinator, said the charging station is part of an initiative already adopted by cities such as Prestonsburg and Campton.

"Tennessee Tech currently has a program where they're selecting certain sites to participate in an electric vehicle charging station

Submitted photo

During their Jan. 9, the Perry County Fiscal Court discussed the pending installation of an electric vehicle charging station, set for Perry County Park.

See STATION, Page 6A

Election filing deadline passes

A HAZARD HERALD
STAFF REPORT

The deadline for candidates who wish to be on ballots in the May 2024 May primary elections was Jan. 5.

According to Secretary of State Michael G Adams, 2024 candidate filings are as follows for Perry County:

- Democrat Scott Blair will be unopposed for the office of commonwealth's attorney for the 33rd District.
- Democrat Charles Ira Patterson will be unopposed for the office of circuit court clerk for the 33rd District.
- In the nonpartisan race for Hazard City Commission, the filers were Fitz Steele, Luke Glaser, Susan Martin Brotherton and Paul Olinger.

- Incumbent 84th Dist. state Rep. Chris Fugate, R-Chavies, will not be opposed in the Republican primary, but will face a challenge in the general election from the sole Democrat to file for the primary — Zackary H. Hall of Hazard.

According to the office of the Kentucky Secretary of State, there are a number of candidates in the statewide and federal elections. This includes the incumbent from the Democratic Party, Joseph Biden, and Republican candidate, former President Donald J. Trump.

Other Democratic filings for the office of president include Dean Phillips and Marianne Williamson, with Republican filings including Ryan L. Binkley, Chris Christie, Ron Desantis, Nikki R. Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy.

In the running for the U.S. Representative in Kentucky's 5th Congressional District, incumbent Hal Rogers is facing opposition in the Republican Party. The primary election includes Republican candidates Brandon Monhollen, David E. Kraftchak Jr., and Dana Edwards. As there are no Democratic candidates running in this district, the victor of the primary will automatically secure the office.

HDA aiding flood survivors with Red Cross grant

A HAZARD HERALD
STAFF REPORT

The Housing Development Alliance has been granted over \$335,000 by the American Red Cross to build 12 new homes for flood survivors and rehabilitate two homes damaged by the 2022 flooding across Breathitt, Knott and Perry Counties, HDA announced in a statement.

According to the statement, the grant also provides capacity support for two key HDA staff positions while it conducts flood recovery efforts — repair program manager and repair construction specialist.

"Housing is the number-one need of flood survivors in Eastern Kentucky, and it's because of that significant need that we've launched our Higher Ground plan to build and repair homes for flood-surviving households in the three counties we serve that were hardest hit," said

See HDA, Page 6A



Submitted photo

Housing Development Alliance carpenters frame new homes for survivors of the 2022 flooding. HDA announced recently that the American Red Cross has given the organization \$335,000 to go toward projects to help in recovery from the flood.

HPD charge Perry man with trafficking in methamphetamine

A HAZARD HERALD
STAFF REPORT

A Perry County man is facing a felony methamphetamine trafficking charge after, Hazard Police Department officers said, they found him in possession of nearly 6 ounces of the drug.

According to an arrest citation, on Jan. 9, HPD Officer Jordan Childers observed a 2007 Hyundai Elantra with expired registration leaving a known drug area and the driver failed to use turn signals at two different locations.

Childers wrote that he had received information that the passenger in the vehicle, Jesse James Terry, 42, of Ky. 28, Hazard, was traveling to Lexington and buying drugs.

Childers wrote that, after he and Officer Tyler Pigman stopped the vehicle, they learned that Terry had two active warrants and placed him under arrest.

During a search following the arrest, the citation said, officers found a crystal-like substance inside a container on Terry's key ring and a 1-inch-by-1-inch baggie

See TRAFFICKING, Page 8A

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Mickey Couch

Mickey Junior Couch, 63, of Viper, died Sunday, December 31, 2023 at Hazard ARH.

A Celebration of Life service was held Monday, January 8 at 5 p.m. at The Imagination Station. Arrangements were under the direction of Engle-Bowling Funeral Home of Hazard.

The guestbook may be signed at www.Engle-BowlingFuneralHome.com



Terry Isaacs

Terry Michael Isaacs, 70, of Hazard, died Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at the Greg and Norman Wells Hospice Care Center.

He was born August 2, 1953, the son of the late Claude Isaac Jr and the late Betty Brooks Isaacs. He was a United States Navy Veteran and a retired install service tech for Pepsi. He loved to travel, watch westerns, U.K. Basketball and the Cincinnati Reds. He was a classic car enthusiast. Throughout the years, he took pride in giving to many different charities. Most of all he loved to spend time with his family.

He is survived by one son, Michael Isaacs, of Hazard; three sisters, Karen Hall (Greg) of Hazard, Kathy Patrick (Tim) of Hazard and Sue Kemper (John) of Lexington; one brother, Steve Isaacs (Kay) of Lexington; special friend, Nancy Campbell; special cousin, Cheri Rowlett; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, January 7 at Maggard's Mtn. View Chapel with Pastor Tim Reynolds and Amos Hamblin officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Maggard's Mtn. View Chapel of Hazard.

The guestbook may be signed at www.MaggardsFuneralHomes.com

This is a paid obituary.



Robert Napier

Robert Kelly (RK) Napier, 78 years and 10 months, of Hazard, died Sunday, December 31, 2023, at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital.

He was born in Hazard, February 21, 1945, the son of Rex Napier and Amanda Combs Napier. He was a Godly man and loved to talk about the Bible with anyone that would listen. He was a member of the Victory Assembly of God Church where he and wife founded the church in their living room in 1978. He worked 38 years for CSX Railroad where he also retired. He wore many hats in the church from being the founding member to secretary. After his retirement he enjoyed attending all his grandkids sporting events and of course shopping with his lovely wife. Faithful, decency, reliability, honor, humility, these are all qualities that Robert not only held in high esteem but practiced every day during his time on earth. He taught us many lessons that will live on long after he is gone. He taught us how to rise above challenges, to live honestly, and to let your actions, not words deter-

mine who you are. One of the hardest things we have to do now as a family is to let him go. But we will continue to carry his legacy with us wherever we go, and what a legacy that is...a legacy of true love.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Don Napier; son-in-law, Ted Morgan; brother-in-law, Tommy Brewer.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Bertha Rice Napier; son, Robert Dwayne Napier (Selena); daughter, Patricia Morgan; grandchildren, Colby Napier, Conner Napier, Tyler Morgan, tanner Morgan and Grace Morgan; great grandchildren, Isla Morgan, Theo Morgan (expected February 2024); sister, Peggy Brewer; sister-in-law, Louise Napier; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, January 5 at the Victory Assembly of God with Joe Girdler and Randy Damon officiating. Burial followed in the Creekside Memorial Cemetery, Hazard. Arrangements were under the direction of Maggard's Mtn. View Chapel of Hazard.

The guestbook may be signed at www.MaggardsFuneralHomes.com

This is a paid obituary.

ard, July 4, 1956, the son of the late Elmer Owens and the late Mavis Jean Cornett Owens.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Bert Valentine, Jr. and Paul Russell Owens. He was an electrician and a foreman in the coal mining industry for 30 years. He worked hard, but he also played hard. He was an avid traveler. Always down for a road trip with a destination unknown which led him to see all 48 continental United States. He had a great sense of humor, he loved to draw, appreciated a good book and had an impressive album collection.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Phyllis Owens of Hazard; son, Douglas Wayne Owens, Jr. (Elizabeth) of Florence; daughter, Candice Bowen (Clyde) of Frankfort; sisters, Sandra Whitaker of Big Creek, Linda Marion of New Hampshire, Connie Higdon of Winchester, Rhonda Shelton of Winchester; six grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, January 11 at Engle-Bowling Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the Jent Cemetery, Carcassone. Arrangements were under the direction of Engle-Bowling Funeral Home of Hazard.

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Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, January 11 at Engle-Bowling Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the Jent Cemetery, Carcassone. Arrangements were under the direction of Engle-Bowling Funeral Home of Hazard.

The guestbook may be signed at www.Engle-BowlingFuneralHome.com

Douglas Owens Sr.
Douglas Wayne Owens Sr., died Saturday, January 6, 2024 at his residence.

He was born in Hazard, July 4, 1956, the son of the late Elmer Owens and the late Mavis Jean Cornett Owens.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Bert Valentine, Jr. and Paul Russell Owens. He was an electrician and a foreman in the coal mining industry for 30 years. He worked hard, but he also played hard. He was an avid traveler. Always down for a road trip with a destination unknown which led him to see all 48 continental United States. He had a great sense of humor, he loved to draw, appreciated a good book and had an impressive album collection.

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Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, January 11 at Engle-Bowling Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the Jent Cemetery, Carcassone. Arrangements were under the direction of Engle-Bowling Funeral Home of Hazard.

The guestbook may be signed at www.Engle-BowlingFuneralHome.com

Darlene Vanover
Darlene Vanover, 64, of Bulan, died Saturday, January 6, 2024 at her residence.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, January 13 at Victory Lighthouse Pentecostal Church. Arrangements were under the direction of Engle-Bowling Funeral Home of Hazard.

The guestbook may be signed at www.Engle-BowlingFuneralHome.com

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Adrian Rogers

Adrian Bruce Rogers, 63, of Lexington, died Friday, January 5, 2024.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, January 12 at Engle-Bowling Funeral Home with R.T. Barker. Burial will follow at the Riverside Cemetery, Hazard. Arrangements were under the direction of Engle-Bowling Funeral Home of Hazard.

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CASSADY

Continued From Page 5A

fits from the infrastructure would be willing to put in their fair share, giving according to their own means. This world's not perfect. So, unfortunately, taxes are the way to do that.

I maintain that it's important to ensure that when tax dollars are spent they are done so in a way that benefits society as a whole. This type of spending, which supports families and children is not just morally right, but very often pragmatically correct as well.

It's harder for children living in deep poverty to break out of that cycle. I mean, can you really concentrate in school when you're on the verge of starvation, or been without medical care for too long? Those children who benefit from assistance are not guaranteed success in life, but it certainly gets more easy when the basics are taken care of.

Those who identify as pro-life should be keenly interested in erasing many of the barriers to families being able to raise a child, whether they be financial or otherwise. It wasn't enough to simply erase Roe vs. Wade. We must become a better nation, a nation in which abortion is ended not just by law, but by a lack of demand.

Westerfield was quoted as saying that the state is "50 years too late" in enacting this kind of measure. He's right. The minute Roe vs. Wade was issued, those who believe that life begins at conception and deserves protection should have moved to make this nation more supportive of individuals at all stages of life. That's a truly pro-life stance.

DRUEN

Continued From Page 5A

factor, which often goes hand in hand with the health issue, is we are still an impoverished state. Our per capita income is only 65% of what the national figure is. Nearly 17% of Kentuckians live below the poverty line, which is worse than it was at the beginning of this century.

The biggest contributing factor, in my opinion, though is what I often talk about... the decline of community. Every year, we seem to grow more isolated. What has been handed us in convenience can also be a detriment. We shop Amazon rather than going to the stores. We have a wide selection of sports to stream on ESPN in high definition, keeping us from going to ballgames. We

even increasingly worship "together" in our pajamas watching our own churches on YouTube or Facebook rather than attending in person. These conveniences can be great for many, but on the whole I think we are feeling the detrimental effects.

I'm typically not one for new years' resolutions. I'm not a fan of feeling like a failure before February. However, this year I'm

going to try something new. I'm going to find more joy. I'm going to make a concerted effort for happiness. And I'm going to shock my family by showing it more.

As Abraham Lincoln said, "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." And my mind is made up to be very happy.

STATION

Continued From Page 1A

program," McIntosh said. "They will provide the station to us at no cost and train our men to install and maintain the charging station." McIntosh emphasized the potential benefits for the public and tourists.

"We have the opportunity to provide a service to the public and even tourists coming through with the use of this charging station," he said. "I know Prestonsburg and Campton are participating. We would be the first one in our neighborhood to participate

in this program. So we have an opportunity to explore this and see if it will be beneficial and become something we continue to do later on and put up other charging stations around the county to allow people traveling to stop in Hazard and Perry County, which hopefully would boost our economy a little bit."

Judge-Executive Scott Alexander pointed out the financial advantages.

"This is a grant at no cost to Perry County," Alexander said. "It's important for the public to know this isn't a debate of are you for one type of energy or another. We are coal people. But electric vehicles are coming

and I personally think it could end up being a good thing for coal."

McIntosh also noted the station's compatibility with various EV models.

"You can't just pull your EV Ford into a Tesla charging station and charge it," he said. "This station supposedly has adapters that will accept all different types of EV's. If you have a Ford, a Chevy, a Tesla, you can charge your vehicle at that station."

The Perry County Fiscal Court meets every second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m., all meetings are open to the public and streamed live on Facebook.

HDA

Continued From Page 1A

HDA Executive Director Scott McReynolds.

"The Red Cross grant has allowed us to provide immediate aid to those in need," said McReynolds. "Through the Red Cross's generous support, we'll be providing a better, more affordable home for over a dozen flood-surviving families."

Since the flood disaster, HDA has completed 18 new homes for flood survivors and has rehabilitated 67 flood-damaged homes, according to the statement. McReynolds said in the statement that, by the end of the fiscal year, his organization hopes to complete a similar number of home builds and repairs for low-income families who were not directly affected by the flood.

"Since our area was in a housing crisis before the flood, we're in a full-blown housing emergency now," McReynolds said. "We lost over 400 homes and thousands were damaged. The most recent data shows the region will need at least three to five years to recover, and in just the counties we serve, the cost of recovery is estimated to be around \$529 million. That's why this grant is so significant to our efforts."

According to the statement, in the weeks following the historic 1,000-year flood, more than 470 trained Red Cross disaster workers were on the ground in Eastern Kentucky, providing shelter, meals, emotional support and more. The Red Cross has raised nearly \$11 million for its Kentucky Floods response and has pledged to continue providing support services for both individual and community long-term recovery in the region.

"The grant awarded to HDA will help make some very special dreams come true," said Red Cross Regional Executive Deborah Ranier. "It will help those awaiting a more solid foundation to move forward."

According to the statement, one family helped by Red Cross grant funds is Perry County flood survivor Tonya Smith and her young son, Caleb. Smith's home near the Chavies community was destroyed by floodwa-

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According to the statement, one family helped by Red Cross grant funds is Perry County flood survivor Tonya Smith and her young son, Caleb. Smith's home near the Chavies community was destroyed by floodwa-

ters in the early morning hours of July 28, 2022.

"It's just hard to believe that water could do something that bad," Smith said. "My dad watched the water pick my home up and wash it away. It stayed intact until it hit a tree. I'm just glad we were awake, were keeping an eye on it and that we were able to get out this time. I'm just so grateful for all the help and support. There's no way I could have afforded a new home anywhere else, with the way I get paid and stuff. As a single mom, it's hard."

For more information about HDA's Higher Ground plan, flood recovery efforts, and/or how to get involved or donate, visit, www.hdahome.org.