

# At work in Frankfort

State Rep. Chris Fugate of Chavies speaks on the House Floor during the 2025 Regular Session. Representative Fugate serves as the chair for the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Protection, Tourism, and Energy. Representative Fugate also serves on the House Committees on Appropriations and Revenue, Natural Resources and Energy, Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection and Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.



Photo courtesy LRC Public Information

# House passes Fugate-sponsored bill on law enforcement records

SPECIAL TO THE HAZARD HERALD

Members of the House of Representatives on March 4 passed HB 520, sponsored by Rep. Chris Fugate, R-Chavies. The measure would protect certain law enforcement records from public inspection, according to a statement from the House Majority Caucus. “HB 520 would help provide much-needed clarity related to the law enforcement investigation exemption to Kentucky’s Open Records Act,” said Fugate. This measure, the statement said, would exempt

from open records requests and inspection any information that could pose a risk to a law enforcement agency or its investigation by revealing the identity of informants or witnesses otherwise not known. “This measure is designed to protect public safety by safeguarding open and active law enforcement investigations and preventing the premature release of information while these investigations are ongoing,” Fugate added. HB 520 will now move to the Senate for consideration. To keep track of HB 520 during the 2025 Regular Session, visit, legislature.ky.gov.

# Berea announces Fall 2024 Dean’s List

SPECIAL TO THE HAZARD HERALD

More than 530 Berea College students were named to the Fall 2024 Dean’s List. A student is named to the Dean’s List who achieves a GPA of 3.4 or higher while passing

at least four total credits, a course load equivalent to 16 semester hours. Local students on the dean’s list were: • AndyRiley of Viper • HannahStidham of Busy • PeytonDixon of Cornettsville

# American Electric Power Foundation donates \$150,000 to Appalachians affected by Valentine’s Day floods

SPECIAL TO APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

American Electric Power announced in a statement it is providing relief to Appalachian communities impacted by historic flooding in mid-February. To help those affected recover and rebuild, the AEP Foundation, the Kentucky Power Foundation and the Appalachian Power Foundation have contribut-

ed \$150,000 toward relief efforts in Eastern Kentucky, southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia. “This support is intended to aid in the recovery process for the communities that have faced catastrophic damage,” said Janelle N. Coleman, president of the AEP Foundation. “During these difficult times, it’s crucial that we unite and extend our support to those in need.” The AEP Foundation, funded by AEP and its util-

ity operating units, provides a permanent, ongoing resource for charitable initiatives, including efforts to help communities recover from natural disasters, the statement said. The AEP Foundation donated \$50,000 to the American National Red Cross to support its efforts in the Appalachian region, and two of AEP’s subsidiaries — Kentucky Power and Appalachian Power — are each donating funds to organizations working with com-

munities in the companies’ service areas to recover and rebuild. The Kentucky Power Foundation donated \$25,000 to the Appalachian Service Project in Eastern Kentucky and \$25,000 to the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, the statement said. The Appalachian Power Foundation donated \$25,000 to the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia and \$25,000 to the United Way of Southwest Virginia, the statement said.



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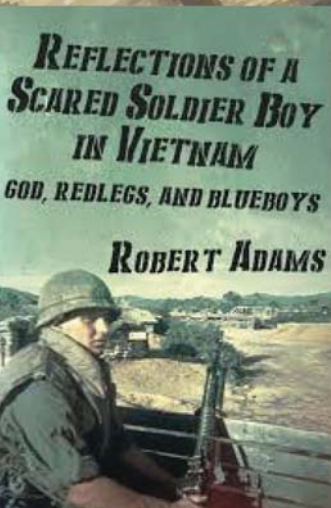
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