



AMERICAN FLAGS COMMEMORATING the “Walk of Honor” dedication on Monday, May 26 will be placed on the courthouse lawn. The “Walk of Honor” recognizes the service of area men and women in the armed forces of the United States.

# WCWD Board Adds Assistant Superintendent

The Webster County Water District board announced during their Thursday, May 8, meeting that they have approved Blake Fisher as an assistant water department superintendent. The move came following a short, closed session by the board to discuss personnel.

Fisher, who is already a water district employee, will begin the duties immediately with his salary adjusted accordingly, the board said. Board chair Tommy Robertson noted that Fisher will serve a six-month probationary period with a review scheduled at the end of that time.

In other business, superintendent Trevor Baldwin asked that Beverly Martin be added to the district’s bank accounts due to the possible retirement of Tammy Harkins later this year.

Baldwin also shared a letter from the Kentucky Rural Water Association regarding the county’s ability to now offer its customers a service that will allow them to subscribe to ServLine, a service that provides financial protection to customers who suffer water leaks. The WCWD tried several years ago to offer the service to county water customers, but the Public Service Commission nixed the

program at that time.

Now KRWA is bringing the program back for consideration. Baldwin did not asked the board to approve the program, rather, he provided updated information for the to review and consider. Should they decide to move forward with the insurance like program, customers would be allowed to opt in or opt out with those opting to participate paying a minimal annual fee for water loss protection.

In addition to approving the minutes of the previous meeting and payment vouchers, the board reviewed the April water production report. That report shows that the district produced 29,220,250 gallons of water and sold 27,904,292 gallons up by nearly 700,000 gallons in the same period in 2024. Baldwin told the group that sales are up with both the north Hopkins district and Crittenden County taking more water. According to Baldwin, Crittenden County is pulling about two million gallons a month and Hopkins County sales continue to increase.

The next meeting of the Webster County Water District Board is scheduled for June 12, at 10:00 a.m.

# Webster County Jailer’s Report

Webster County Jailer Greg Sauls reports inmates worked a total of 1656 hours between May 4 and May 10, 2025. Hours worked include 520 hours at the detention center; 280 hours at the RCC; 80 hours mowing; 360 hours for Union County; 40 hours for Clay; 40 hours for Dixon; 80 hours for Providence; 40 hours for recycling; 40 hours for the road department shop; 40 hours for the dog warden and 16 hours for Landon’s Hope.

The total jail population is 161 with 48 county inmates; 22 Union County inmates and 91 state prisoners. Twenty-six inmates attended Moral Recognition Therapy; 12 attended Anger Management; 14 attended Thinking for Good; 14 attended Untangling Relationships; 11 attended parenting. Two inmates attended GED classes with three taking GED tests. Incarcerated during the same period were Matthew Arthur

Marsha Ball  
Leslie Beach  
Scott Berry  
Lena Crane  
Damien Deal  
Tony Elders  
Kristen Freeman  
Drake Frye  
Makayla Hammons  
Joshua Hedgepath  
Dominique McDavis  
LaDonna Miller  
Andrea Rawhoof  
Rene Salazar  
Graham Watson  
Kristina Wilson

# Board Of Education Approves Positions; Discusses Budget

The Webster County Board of Education met for just over an hour Monday night in a work session that included discussing the district’s tentative budget and adding teaching positions at two schools.

Treasurer Brandi Burnett presented the board’s monthly financial report and provided board members with information related to the payment schedule for accounts payable as well as the pay dates for employees. Employees will be paid the 15th and 30th of each month, Burnett said.

The district’s tentative budget which is due this month includes a bus purchase per the district’s schedule for that purchase, the debt service amount, the SEEK forecast and salaries. Burnett told the board there are also some budget unknowns including revenue from tax assessment, any SEEK adjustment and the fluctuation of enrollment. Approximately 70 percent of the budget is allocated for the general fund, according to Burnett with special revenue (grants) accounting for 11 percent and food services, which are restrict funds, being about nine percent of the district budget. Debt service takes four percent and the building fund is allocated at three percent. Annually, the district pays about \$1,339,000 in debt service, the treasurer said; she also provided numbers related to the construction fund.

The WCHS student Chromebook lease was tabled, but Superintendent Aaron Harrell did tell the board that the district will have to look at how best to fund Chromebooks soon. Presently, students pay a rental fee for a Chromebook, but that fee may have to be increased in order to keep the devices upgraded.

The superintendent also provided the board with a list of meeting dates for the coming year and asked them to review those dates and offer suggestions if they want to see chang-

es. Board member Amanda Coomes asked that the times of the meetings be changed from 5:30 twice monthly to 4:30. A decision regarding meeting dates and times is expected to be made at the board’s next meeting of the month.

Harrell also reminded the board that each year, principals are allowed to ask for additional staffing if they feel it is in the best interest of the students. Again this year, he has given principals the opportunity to ask for additional staff and had two requests which he recommended the board approve. The first is to add back one of the positions lost at Dixon Elementary based on allocations. Harrell told the board that adding a position back will offset tranfers and non-renewals at the school.

The superintendent also recommended the continuation of the assistant principal position at Providence Elementary. He noted that data shows that position has been beneficial to the school with teachers seeing improved behavior among students and fewer behavior issues. Harrell also recommended that a certified position be added at Providence Elementary, a move that will allow additional support for at risk and high-risk students and will allow the school to avoid a split classroom.

Before Monday night’s meeting adjourned the board approved Harrell’s staffing request.

As the meeting drew to an end, board members briefly discussed the possibility of trying again to pass a nickel tax in the county. No decision was made on that issue, rather, board members wanted to understand when that process could start if they choose to move in that direction. With federal funding for education under fire, and state funding being based in part on federal allocations, districts statewide are looking at ways to continue educating children and meet the financial obligations of districts.

# Activities That Exercise The Brain

Mental health is an important topic to acknowledge and discuss, and such recognition is vital for all people, including the aging population. The World Health Organization indicates 57 million people had dementia worldwide in 2021. The National Institutes of Health reports the global prevalence of dementia in individuals under the age of 70 increased by 122 percent in recent decades, rising from roughly six million people in 1990 to more than 13 million in 2021.

Although many factors are involved in the development of dementias and cognitive decline, Alzheimer’s disease or other neurodegenerative illnesses are not inevitable as one gets older. But it is understandable why so many adults make brain health a priority. People of all ages can benefit from incorporating activities that exercise the brain into their daily lives.

- Learn a new language**  
Speaking a new language opens up new opportunities for travel and socialization and also strengthens the brain. A 2019 review published in Frontiers in Neuroscience noted that bilingualism increased and strengthened the connectivity between different areas of the brain. This enhanced connectivity might play a role in delaying the onset of dementias, according to researchers.
- Learn new skills**  
Trying something new might

stimulate the brain in ways that improve its function. A cognitively demanding skill, such as photography, playing an instrument and other activities could enhance memory function. Teaching such skills to others also can reinforce brain functions.

**Take dancing classes**  
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that dancing might help combat Alzheimer’s disease by improving blood circulation throughout the body. It also forces a person’s memory and processing speed to work at a higher capacity through learning the choreography.

- Use all of your senses**  
A 2014 study in Frontiers in Human Neuroscience indicated doing activities that simultaneously engage each of the five senses can strengthen the brain. Working memory and recall were higher for multi-sensory interactions. Baking a batch of cookies is an example of a multisensory experience.
- Work on puzzles**  
Crossword puzzles, word searches, word games, and brain teaser-like puzzles are entertaining and work the brain. Research has shown that even doing jigsaw puzzles “recruits multiple cognitive abilities and is a protective factor for visuospatial cognitive aging,” according to Healthline.
- People are often concerned with giving their bodies a workout, but they also should focus on activities that strengthen their brains.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR PAVING BIDS**

Separate sealed bids for paving city streets for the City of Clay, KY will be received by the Municipal Office at 9100 St Rt 132 W, P. O. Box 425, Clay, KY until 4:00 p.m. CDT, Thursday May 15, 2025. Each bidder shall be responsible for their delivery by the above noted time. Bids will be reviewed at the next Council Meeting

The detailed specifications may be picked up at the Municipal Office, Monday through Friday from 8 am – 4 pm

The owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to negotiate with the apparent qualified best bidder or bidders to such extent as may be necessary.

The City of Clay is an equal opportunity employer. 5/14c

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE**

**Pursuant to Application Number 917-5016, Renewal 5**

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Webster County Coal, LLC; 1146 1146 Monarch Street Suite 350 Lexington, KY 40513 has applied for renewal of an existing underground coal mining operation located 1.8 miles north of Manitou in Hopkins County. The renewed permit will disturb 41.2 acres of surface disturbance making a total area of 41.2 acres within the surface permit boundary.

The proposed renewal area is approximately 0.6 miles east from KY 630's junction with Wolf Hollow Road and located 0.2 miles east of an unnamed tributary of Pond Creek.

The proposed operation is located on the Slaughters U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute quadrangle maps. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Webster County Coal Corp. There is no coal extraction associated with the renewal area, which is a mine management area intended to support an underlying underground mining operation.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's, Madisonville Regional Office, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE**

**Pursuant To Application Number 917-5013, Renewal #8**

(1) In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Webster County Coal, LLC, 1146 Monarch Street Suite 350 Lexington, KY 40513 has applied for renewal of permit 917-5013 for an underground coal mining operation, slurry injection and a coal processing facility located 2.3 miles southwest of Lisman in Webster County. The proposed operation will disturb 192.81 surface acres and will underlie 20,083.15 acres and the total area within the permit boundary will be 20,116.26 acres.

(2) The proposed operation is approximately 2.9 miles southeast from KY Route 270's junction with KY Route 132 and located 0.6 miles north of Slover Creek.

(3) The proposed operation is located on the Providence, Nebo, Slaughters, Bordley, Dixon, and Sebree U.S.G.S. 7-1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Webster County Coal, LLC and Arthur Miller Jr. All underground areas have been mined.

(4) The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's, Madisonville Regional Office, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Blvd, 2nd floor, Frankfort, KY 40601.