

## LPD welcomes two new recruits



Courtesy photo

The Leitchfield Police Department (LPD) welcomed two new recruits on Monday. Alex Hazelwood and Caden Jennings were sworn in by Leitchfield Mayor Harold Miller to the department's ranks. They have completed all prerequisites to be hired and will soon attend DOJT Basic Training in Richmond, Ky. For the first two weeks, they will be involved in internal training on everything from personal ethics to use of force, as well as all computer systems and policies employed at the LPD.

## Shell joins 11 state ag leaders to support USDA's National Farm Security Action Plan

Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell, along with 11 of his fellow agriculture leaders from across the country serving on the America First Agriculture Commissioner Council, has penned a letter of support for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) newly announced National Farm Security Action Plan. In their joint letter, these State Departments of Agriculture voiced unified backing for this vital Plan that will protect America's farmland and strengthen national security.

Agriculture commissioners, secretaries, and directors from the following states signed the letter: Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

"American farmland is a strategic asset," the letter states. "It sustains our food supply, powers rural economies, and contributes directly to the health and sovereignty of our nation."

With rising concerns over increasing foreign interest in U.S. farmland — particularly near military installations and critical infrastructure — and after years of subsequent inaction from the previous

administration, the Plan takes decisive steps to safeguard agricultural land ownership and address supply chain vulnerabilities, officials said. The National Farm Security Action Plan specifically aims to tighten reporting and enforcement under the Agricultural Foreign Investment and Disclosure Act (AFIDA), enhance penalties for noncompliance, and strengthen USDA oversight to ensure America retains control over its critical food systems.

The Plan also secures various facets of American agriculture beyond protecting farmland. It evaluates all USDA programs — including rural development, research, and nutrition—to ensure they put America First, according to a press release. Additional measures focus on securing supply chains protecting plant and animal health from invasive species and foreign animal diseases and calling upon State partners in government to pursue similar measures.

"The USDA's leadership in developing this comprehensive Plan, and working across other federal Departments, shows a clear commitment to putting American farmers and

ranchers first," Shell said. "Protecting our farmland and food systems from foreign influence and biosecurity threats is critical not only to our agricultural economy but to the national security of the United States. I'm proud to join colleagues from across the nation in supporting this important work."

The letter highlights the crucial role the USDA plays as a "load-bearing wall" in the nation's security, coordinating with federal, state, and local partners, as well as the intelligence community, to secure the integrity of food systems and critical agricultural infrastructure.

State agriculture leaders emphasized the importance of transparency and close collaboration with stakeholders — including farmers, ranchers, and tribal communities — to safeguard America's agricultural productivity and preserve farmland for future generations.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture remains dedicated to supporting policies and programs that protect Kentucky farms and ensure a strong, secure, and resilient agricultural sector for the Commonwealth and the nation.

For more information on Kentucky's agricultural initiatives, visit [kyagr.com](http://kyagr.com).

## PSC approves EKPC request to construct new generation facility

The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) has granted East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCNs) to construct a new \$1.37 billion combined cycle gas turbine unit at Cooper Station, and to retrofit Cooper Unit 2 and Spurlock Units 1-4 to allow for co-fired generation. The new combined cycle unit will be built at the Cooper Station facility, located near Somerset, and once completed will have 745 MW of generation capacity. In addition, the project will relocate the switchyard and transmission line and will build several new transmission lines that are required to handle the new capacity.

EKPC estimated an in-service date for the new unit of December 2030. Costs to upgrade the Cooper Unit 2 and Spurlock Units 1-4 are estimated to be an additional \$260.8 million.

Along with new transmission lines, EKPC has proposed to contract with Columbia Gulf Transmission to expand its natural gas infrastructure with an extension to run the pipelines to EKPC's property, which consists of approximately 40 miles to the Cooper Station and 40 miles to the Spurlock Station. According to the contracts, EKPC will not be responsible for the construction, procurement, or maintenance as it relates to the natural gas line or natural gas service.

In an earlier action in this same case, the PSC also approved EKPC's application to adjust its Demand-Side Management (DSM) tariffs and implement new DSM and Energy Efficiency (EE) programs for the company. EKPC proposed to modify three existing DSM-EE programs to include an

increase in incentives. The existing programs with proposed modifications are the Button-Up Weatherization Program, the CARES Low-Income Weatherization Program, and the Heat Pump Retrofit Program. EKPC also proposed four new DSM-EE programs to be added to its portfolio. The proposed new programs are the High Efficiency Heat Pump Program (residential), the Backup Generator Control Program (residential), the Commercial Advanced Lighting Program (commercial), and the Commercial and Industrial Thermostat Program (commercial). The investment for the first full year of the modified/new DSM-EE Plan in 2026 is expected to total \$7.49 million, excluding administrative costs. This represents an increase from the \$3.49 million in 2023 costs.

EKPC is a not-for-profit, rural electric cooperative corporation established under KRS Chapter 279 with its headquarters in Winchester, Ky. Pursuant to various agreements, EKPC provides electric generation capacity and electric energy to its 16 Owner-Member Cooperatives, which in turn serve over 570,000 Kentucky homes, farms and commercial and industrial establishments in 89 Kentucky counties.

The order, a video of the hearing, and other records in the case are available on the PSC website, [psc.ky.gov](http://psc.ky.gov). The case number is 2024-00370.

The PSC is an independent agency attached for administrative purposes to the Energy and Environment Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,100 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in Kentucky and has approximately 90 employees.



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## Guthrie announces recovery of \$9.6M for constituents through federal casework

Tuesday, Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02) announced that he helped 535 constituents of Kentucky's Second District recover \$9,604,166 through federal casework in the first six months of 2025.

"One of the most important responsibilities I have as the Representative of Kentucky's Second District is to ensure that the federal government is working for hardworking Kentucky families," said Guthrie. "Too often, Washington's bloated bureaucracy gets in the way of efficiency. This doesn't impact bureaucrats, but instead the people they're intended to serve. I am

honored to have been able to assist so many Kentuckians in navigating the federal government and return significant amounts of money rightfully owed to them."

Guthrie's office can assist constituents of Kentucky's Second District with casework issues concerning processing tax returns via the IRS, expediting a passport with the Department of State, obtaining benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs, and more. To get assistance with the above issues or another issue with the federal government, residents of KY-02 can call (270) 842-9896 or visit <https://guthrie.house.gov/services/casework/>.

Under the guidelines of House Committee on Ethics and Committee on House Administration, Guthrie's office is allowed to request information or a status report from a federal agency's liaison office, urge prompt consideration, and request reconsideration of an administrative response which is believed to not be supported by applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Please note, the office cannot guarantee a successful outcome of a case. In line with recommendations from the House Committee on Ethics, the office has a policy of not interfering with individuals' ongoing legal proceedings.



Brett Guthrie