

The VA in the news

By **FREDDY GROVES**

So much is going on right now. With the new administration making many changes on a daily basis across the federal government, some of those changes were sure to affect the Department of Veterans Affairs. Here is one thing that has happened: The VA let go 1,000 employees. For the most part they were probationary employees (deemed non-mission critical) with less than one year on the job or those in another employment category who had worked for less than two years. This 1,000 is out of the 43,000 probationary employees they didn't fire because

they were mission critical and out of a total of 473,000 employees at the VA. One year ago the VA had planned to reduce their numbers by 10,000 employees in 2025. Then there are the many thousands who took the deferred resignation offer, which will allow them to stay home and still be paid through September. So the 1,000 fewer employees isn't a massive number. The financial bottom line from this recent move is that \$98 million was saved, money that will be plowed back into services and benefits for veterans, per Secretary Doug Collins. While this move was effective immediately, there is a catch: Management can ask

that certain employees not be terminated to ensure that the work can go on, that benefits and services aren't effected. Rumor has it that some of the employees who were let go had handled the phones at the suicide crisis line. A senator stepped in and asked that two of the employees be reinstated. While it might be a bit unnerving to see cuts at the VA for the benefits and services we depend on, I say we should just wait it out and not let panic set in. We have a new VA secretary, and for now we should trust him to fight for what's right for us, despite all the loud naysayers who excel at stirring up anxiety. I think it will all be OK. (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Spring commencement set May 8 at Harlan

The spring commencement ceremony for Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College will take place at 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 8, at Harlan County High School. Graduates from all SKCTC campuses will be recognized for earning degrees and diplomas in a variety of

programs. The public is invited to attend and celebrate the Class of 2025. Students who are preparing to graduate and have questions about commencement are encouraged to contact Katina Fields, registrar, at kfields0002@kctcs.edu or 606.589.3002.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICES
NOTICE
Commonwealth of Kentucky
Letcher District Court
Case #25-P-28
In re:
the estate of:
JOHN TURNER
deceased
NOTICE
Pursuant to KRS 424.340, notice is hereby given that J.C. Turner was on the 5th day of March, 2025 appointed Administrator of the deceased, late of Letcher County, and all persons having claims against said estate shall present same, verified, according to law, to said Administrator at his present address, 208 Cub Rd.,
NOTICES
Gordon, KY 41819 not later than the 5 day of September, 2025.
Mike Watts, Clerk
By: Melissa Claar
Deputy Clerk
(3-12-1p)
NOTICE
Commonwealth of Kentucky
Letcher District Court
Case #25-P-43
In re:
the estate of:
DWIGHT DAVID KINCER
deceased
NOTICE
Pursuant to KRS 424.340, notice is hereby given that Lana Evelyn Kincer was on the 5 day of March, 2025
NOTICES
appointed Administratrix of the deceased, late of Letcher County, and all persons having claims against said estate shall present same, verified, according to law, to said Administratrix at her present address, 358 Pine Creek Rd., Mayking, KY 41837 not later than the 5 day of September, 2025.
Mike Watts, Clerk
By: Melissa Claar
Deputy Clerk
(3-12-1p)
NOTICES
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that James R. Tanner Hesterberg has been appointed warning order attorney in Letcher Circuit Court case no. 25-AD-00001 to notify Lana Paige Johnson and Jeremy Don Davis of the pending Petition for Adoption and to Involuntarily Terminate Parental Rights. Failure to respond to the litigation by certain deadlines could result in adverse legal action against you. For more information, please contact Hesterberg Law Firm at (606) 731-6857 or email Tanner@HesterbergLaw.com. (3-12-1b)
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Cooperative Extension Service
FCS EXTENSION ASSISTANT
LETCHER COUNTY
RE49472
Deadline: 03/26/2025
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<https://ukjobs.uky.edu/postings/574043>
For assistance call:
606-633-2362

The University of Kentucky is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The address of the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment EEO Officer is Room 5-105 Agricultural Science Building North, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091

Notice of Public Meeting
USDA Rural Development
City of Jenkins
Jenkins Police Department Vehicle

A public meeting will take place at 2:00pm on March 24, 2025 at Jenkins City Hall located at 9409 Hwy 805, Jenkins, KY 41537. This meeting will be regarding the proposed funding request through the USDA-RD for the purchase of a 2025 Dodge Durango to be used by the Jenkins Police Department. The public is invited to attend and comment on economic and environmental impacts, service areas, project alternatives or other related issues.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Floodplains and Wetlands
Early Public Notice
Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All persons of the City of Whitesburg, Letcher County, Kentucky
This is to give notice that the City of Whitesburg under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by [Executive Order 11988 and/ or 11990], in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential effect that its project in the floodplain and wetland will have on the human environment for the Whitesburg I & I Phase 1 project. This project will be phase 1 of an SSER program that includes the tv inspection and smoke testing of approximately 51,000 LF of sewer line followed by a report of the findings with rehabilitation recommendations for Phase 1 of the project. The sewer line deficiencies identified in the phase 1 SSER will be corrected on the basis of "worst first". Those sewer line and manhole defects that are most cost effective to repair or replace will be addressed first. The process will continue until the scope of work equals the funds available.

Written comments must be received by the Kentucky River Area Development District at the following address on or before March 27, 2025. Kentucky River Area Development District, 941 N. Main Street Hazard, KY 41701, (606) 436-3158, Attention: Michael K. Smith, Community & Economic Development Planner during the hours of 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Comments may also be submitted via email at michael.smith@kradd.org.

Date: March 12, 2025

NOTICE OF INTENTION
TO MINE
Pursuant to Application Number 867-5368, Renewal

In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that INMET Mining, LLC, 144 East Market Place Blvd, Knoxville, TN, 37922 has applied for renewal of a permit for a surface coal mining operation located 1.10 miles southeast of Partridge in Letcher County. The operation disturbs 17.15 surface area mining acres and underlying an additional 1841.98 acres of underground area for a total of 1859.13 acres.

The operation is approximately 1.10 miles southeast from KY 3404's junction with US 119 and located approximately 0.80 miles southwest of Upper Colliers Creek..

The operation is located on the Benham, Roxana, Whitesburg, and Appalachia 7 ½ minute quadrangle maps. The surface area disturbed is owned by ACIN, LLC. The operation underlies land owned by ACIN, LLC.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Hazard Regional Office, 556 Village Lane, Hazard KY 41702. Written comments or objections must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

PUBLIC NOTICE
LETCHER COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS for
DEBRIS MONITORING SERVICES

Letcher County, Kentucky has experienced damages due to a flooding event occurring in February 2025. In order to recover from this event and respond to disaster events, the Letcher County Fiscal Court is requesting proposals from experienced contractors to provide immediate debris monitoring services. Companies desiring to provide services can access the full Request through the DFS Procurement Portal ("Portal") at dfs.bonfirehub.com or www.erassist.com/work/. Proposals must be submitted through the online Portal no later than 3:00 PM on March 14, 2025. Award will occur at the Letcher County Fiscal Court meeting on March 17th at 10:00 AM in the Letcher County Fiscal Court office located at 156 Main S. 107, Whitesburg, KY 41858. The meeting will be open to the public. All companies are encouraged to submit a proposal. Letcher County is an equal opportunity employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE
LETCHER COUNTY FISCAL COURT
INVITATION FOR BID for
ROAD REPAIR SERVICES

Letcher County, Kentucky has experienced damages due to a flooding event occurring in February 2025. In order to recover from this event, the Letcher County Fiscal Court is seeking bids for road repair services. Companies desiring to provide services must submit sealed bids no later than 3:00 PM on March 14, 2025 through the DFS Procurement Services Portal at dfs.bonfirehub.com. The full IFB can also be reviewed at erassist.com/work. Bid opening and award will occur at the Letcher County Fiscal Court meeting on March 17th at 10:00 AM at 156 Main Street, Suite 107 Whitesburg, KY 41858. Any contractor that currently has overdue work for the county is ineligible for additional work from the county until overdue projects are completed. All companies are encouraged to submit a proposal. Letcher County is an equal opportunity employer.

RATES
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FOR RENT
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HEALTH
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CHRONIC PAIN? — Call us to see if your private insurer covers a TENS Unit. Why not relieve your pain at home? Comfort. Convenience. Complete Medical Solutions. Call 1-866-456-1118. (4-5-ufn)
HELP WANTED
NEED HELP CLEANING — A wet basement with mold and mud. About 1 ft of water has been pumped out, and needs cleanup. Call 606-821-6717. (10-23-ufn)
MISCELLANEOUS
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS — Unable to work? Denied benefits? We can help! Win or pay nothing! Contact Bill Gordon & Associates at 1-855-849-6780 to start your application today! (4-5-ufn)
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Tutor (Student Support Specialist I) Responsible for working with students to provide tutoring services in math and a variety of other courses, that reinforce key concepts, especially those learned in the classroom, especially those students with accommodations. This position will also be cross trained to support advising and specialized accommodation service (i.e. serving as a test reader/proctor, notetaker) needs of students. NOTE: position is grant funded. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree or equivalent. Salary: \$31,680.00 annually (may be higher with additional related experience).

Review of applications to begin March 24, 2025. Applicants may obtain additional information and apply at www.hazard.kctcs.edu — click on JobSeekers. For questions, call 606-487-3111. Minorities are encouraged to apply.

HCTC is an equal opportunity employer and education institution.

Classified Advertising

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