



ALEXA BLACK | Times Leader  
Princeton City Council discussing new vehicles for the Princeton Police Department, Public Works cleanup efforts following flooding and electrical bids for the City County Park.

# Princeton Police in need of new vehicles

## Public Works continues cleanup efforts

**BY ALEXA BLACK**  
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Following a police cruiser collision with a deer, Princeton Police Chief Chris King addressed the City Council, reporting that insurance will cover \$34,000 for the vehicle. With the insurance payout, King has found another cruiser that will cost the city an estimated \$6,000, in combination with the insurance.

However, the Princeton Police Department is still lacking a vehicle,

stemming from an accident that occurred in 2024. Requiring two Chargers and with the rising cost and lack of availability, the purchase of two vehicles could cost upwards of \$100,000 dollars. This matter will be discussed among the Princeton City Council at a later date.

The Princeton City Council voted unanimously for Mayor Brock Thomas to apply for a grant, specifically for the police department to acquire ammunition

needed. This will be done through the KY Office of Homeland Security.

Following the floodwaters throughout Caldwell County and in Princeton, Public Works have been working to pump water in two locations within city limits. They are focusing primarily on water reduction along KY 62, in the parking lot between Hardees and MJ's Lattes. Public Works crews are also pumping water out of South Seminary Street. As of Feb. 18, two street

still remain underwater; Downs Street, as well as Faith Avenue.

The Princeton City Council received a total of three bids on the electrical project at the City County Park. At the next meeting, they hope to move forward with the project. With another game scheduled shortly, so the project will not be finished until the season is over. Regarding Public Works items, 50 aluminum fence panels were removed from the Princeton Playground park, as well as two golf carts and four unrepairable weed eaters for scrap surplus.

# Clark announced as new executive director

**BY TIMES LEADER STAFF**

Lake Barkley Partnership for Economic Development — serving Caldwell, Crittenden, Livingston, and Lyon counties — has announced the appointment of Garrett Clark as its new executive director. In this full-time role, Clark will lead and coordinate economic development efforts across the four-county region.



Murray State University Facebook  
**Garrett Clark, the new executive director of Lake Barkley Partnership for Economic Development**

The Partnership's office is located in Marion at Crittenden County Office Complex.

A native of Benton and 2018 graduate of Marshall County High School, Clark brings an extensive educational background to the position. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Murray State University in 2022 and a master's degree in economic development in 2023.

Clark fills a vacancy left by the resignation last summer of Amanda Davenport, who left the Partnership to become executive director of the Eddyville Riverport & Industrial Development Authority. Davenport had served as the Partnership's executive director since the summer of 2018.

Clark's professional experience includes serving as business development coordinator for Graves County Economic Development in Mayfield. During his tenure in Graves County, Clark promoted business development, developed publications and fostered connections between local students and career opportunities. He also played a pivotal role in organizing Plant Manager Roundtable Discussions, facilitating collaboration among business and industry leaders.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to spearhead economic development efforts in the four-county region of the Lake Barkley Partnership," Clark said. "This area has many advantages that offer great potential for jobs and investment, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for workers and residents. I am excited to get to work and help provide economic opportunities for the communities of the Lake Barkley region."

Lake Barkley Partnership looks forward to Clark's leadership in driving economic growth and fostering collaboration across the region, said President Tim Capps, who is also president of Par 4 Plastics in Marion.

Lake Barkley Partnership for Economic Development is a regional organization dedicated to economic growth in Caldwell, Crittenden, Livingston and Lyon counties in western Kentucky. The Partnership focuses on business retention and expansion, workforce development, marketing and promotion, niche sector development, building regional alliances and investor engagement. It works in concert with local, state and federal agencies to promote growth in the area and currently has about 1,000 acres of property ready for development.

The Partnership has been key in several successful projects, including the expansion at Hydro-Gear, certification as a Work Ready Community, certification of a Build Ready site and renovations at the Eddyville Riverport. By investing resources strategically, the Lake Barkley Partnership aims to create a strong, resilient, and diverse economic region, supporting both existing businesses and attracting new investments to western Kentucky.

# WPSD explains boosted newsroom info flow

**BY CARLY DICK**  
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As WPSD employees prepare to move into the recently renovated newsroom on the first floor of The Paducah Sun building, current employees are providing insight into how the new space will support the efficient flow of information.

Bill Evans, WPSD President and publisher of The Paducah Sun, explained that the flow of information into the newsroom usually starts with the assignment desk.

"We're going to rebrand that as the right now desk because the people that sit here know what is going on right now," he said. "All of this information flows into the right now desk, and then their responsibility is to let it flow out to newscast producers, newscast anchors, reporters, newspaper editors."

The right now desk will have work stations for the assignment manager and web producers. Charity Blanton, the WPSD assignment manager, generalized her role in the newsroom.

"I sort of think of myself as the first filter of the newsroom. I mean, whether it's the police scanner or I have about 150 Facebook pages that I'm following," she said. "I'm just constantly thinking, 'Who would be interested in this, and what is the best way to tell people about it?'"

Part of Blanton's job is combing through potential stories, prioritizing what information the community should know and how the story should be told — visually, written, or through social media.

"I have to consider what people want to know, what people need to know, even if they don't want to know it, sometimes they need to know it. So it's sort of a delicate balance, and this position comes with a lot of responsibility," she said.

Blanton is just the first line of defense in the newsroom, with information and story ideas being checked by newscast anchors, producers, and news directors, but she said being a Paducah native helps her navigate what the

community would want to know.

"I think being from this community does help a little bit because I know what's important to a lot of people here, and it sort of helps guide sometimes the advice that I give [reporters]," she said.

When it comes to the physical aspect of the new newsroom, Blanton said the space is very conducive to the efficient flow of information, as her desk oversees the newsroom and is closest to anchors and producers.

"If breaking news happens, the studio is right there, I can alert somebody right away ... The people I need to speak to are right around me. I really like that," she said.

And sitting beside her at the right now desk will be web producers, who manage WPSD's social media.

"These days, a lot of people get their news from social media or just online in general. So our web producers are so important. A lot of the time, they're where you're going to hear about news first," Blanton said.

Alexis Barrett is a

morning web producer. She said her job is to make the community aware of what is presently happening, using social media as a tool to get news out quickly.

"We're very cognizant of what's going on at all times, and trying to keep our audience in the loop as to that as well ... locally, nationally, globally, making sure that we all have kind of a sense of what's current," she said.

Barrett believes the consolidation of WPSD and Paxton Media's West Kentucky newspaper employees at The Paducah Sun newsroom is a big step to meeting readers and viewers where they are.

"How can we make sure that we're meeting the most people and meeting the most needs? Because we don't want uninformed young people," she said. "We're trying to take those steps to bring them in in various ways."

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Princeton Electric Plant Board (PEPB) is accepting sealed proposals for **General Lawn Care and Maintenance Services.**

Proposals will be accepted until Monday, March 17, 2025 at 12:15 p.m. CST and shall be hand-delivered to the PEPB Office at 304 East Legion Drive, or mailed to PEPB, Post Office Box 608, Princeton, Kentucky 42445.

Proposal documents may be obtained at the Princeton Electric Plant Board Office at 304 East Legion Drive, Princeton, Kentucky, 42445 from Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

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