

See inside, Page B3 **Easter Egg Hunt Egg-stravaganza**
 Saturday, April 4 • 12PM-3PM
 Free Admission • Over 3,500 Eggs
 Quillen Field/Reasor Gym • Fleming-Neon



The MOUNTAIN EAGLE

IT SCREAMS!

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Students at the Letcher County Area Technology Center stand with a nearly completed tiny house they built as part of their vocational training program. The project will be displayed at a spring innovation fair before being offered for sale locally. (Photo courtesy Letcher County Area Technology Center)

Vocational students lead the way in Letcher schools

By SAM ADAMS

Vocational school students in Letcher County are working at more than 10 agencies and businesses across the county, and 95 percent of them are expected to graduate “post-secondary ready,” Area Technology Center Principal Casey Breeding said.

Addressing the Letcher County Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting, Breeding said the state set a goal of 75 percent of students being ready for college, further technical education, or work. Last year, however, 94.8 percent of Letcher County ATC students

met that benchmark.

Most earned industry certifications required for jobs, and many graduated with dual credit, meaning their classes counted toward both high school and college requirements.

“We had 145 seniors and 111 of them got industry certifications,” Breeding said. “We have 90 students this year with dual credit — we had 95 all of last year — so we’ll exceed that number. I’m expecting to exceed the 94.8 percent from last year.”

The board invites a different school principal to each

(Continued on Page 3)

Neon rebidding sewer project as government delays continue

A long-delayed project to replace hundreds of sewage grinder pumps in Fleming-Neon will be rebid after officials determined unnecessary federal requirements were included in the original bid documents.

The project involves replacing more than 350 grinder pumps damaged in the July 2022 flood. The pumps are used to move sewage from homes and businesses into the city’s sewer system, particularly in areas where gravity flow alone isn’t possible.

The work is funded through a FEMA Public Assistance grant of about \$2.9 million approved in 2024. City officials have said roughly 370 grinder pumps were damaged when floodwaters filled with mud, silt and debris swept through the system.

The project, however, has been slowed by a federal government shutdown that has halted approvals needed to move forward. Officials said that even if bids had been accepted, the project could not proceed until FEMA resumes normal operations and grants an extension.

“We recommend rejecting all bids and rebidding the project,” the city’s project engineer told the council. “It protects the city from protest and could result in better prices.”

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Jenkins man facing new charges after alleged threats in jail

A Jenkins man accused of having his girlfriend smuggle contraband to a now-former jail guard has been indicted again — this time for allegedly threatening the girlfriend over a monitored jail telephone line.

Gavin Polly, 27, of 7759 Hwy. 119 N, Jenkins, is charged with two counts of intimidating a participant

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