

**THE BUCHANAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WILL BE CLOSING AT 12PM ON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH FOR
MANDATORY STAFF TRAINING**



SPORTS
**MOSER
DANCE**



INDEPENDENCE BULLETIN JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PAPER FOR BUCHANAN COUNTY AND THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

Thank YOU to our loyal readers. Our newspaper, mobile app and website are enjoyed by you and 11,645 others.



VOLUME 160, NO. 91
\$2.00
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025
WWW.BULLETINJOURNAL.COM

Christmas Tree Pickup

BY CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

While we know the holiday season is just beginning, we wanted to share an update to help with your future planning.

As part of the new sanitation services agreement the City implemented this past July, our partner Kluesner Sanitation will provide a dedicated Christmas tree pickup date at no additional cost to residents.

Please mark your calendar with the following details:

Pickup Date: Monday, January 6, 2025

Time: Trees must be placed at the curb by 6:00 AM

Cost: Free (included in the standard residential contract)

We hope you enjoy the upcoming holidays. We will issue a final reminder closer to the scheduled date.

Sharing nature's wonders



JOHN KLOTZBACH PHOTO

Sondra Cabell shows how to distinguish between male and female Monarch butterflies. Males have spots.

BY SONDRA CABELL

BUCHANAN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

After 24.5 years with Buchanan County Conservation Board (BCCB), 10 years with Kentucky State Parks, 2.5 years with South Carolina State Parks, a summer with the US Forestry Service and a year in residential environmental education, I will be retiring as BCCB Naturalist in early January. I have been honored to share my love of our natural world and the myriad connections it has with tens of thousands of contacts during those years, including multi-generational contacts during my tenure with BCCB. I hope that I have planted seeds that have or will grow.

My favorite part of the job has been constantly learning new things. Through science, new species are still being discovered. We are learning new things about plants and animals and their relationships to each other with new scientific tools and re-learning from old observations and traditions. I have been fortunate to be able, sometimes forced, to continue doing both as an active participant. A great example of this continued learning involve monarch butterflies. I first began engaging as a citizen scientist (regular people helping collect scientific data for use by research scientists) by tagging monarchs in 1987. Almost forty plus years, I have observed some amazing advances in the science involved. In 1987 we used a fold-over sticker, this fall, hundreds of monarchs were tagged with tiny real time GPS transmitters (see Project Monarch). I knew nothing about monarch parasites and diseases until a bunch of monarchs emerging from their chrysalises died in my care. Thus began my lesson in the parasitoid Oe and I have participated in sampling for the disease with Monarch Health since 2006. Although I will be retiring as a BCCB naturalist, I will not be retiring from citizen science and plan to continue actively collecting both larval data and monarch butterflies for tagging and health sampling.

See **NATURE**, page A12



Naturalist Sondra Cabell.

Winter fun with Indee 4th graders



CONTRIBUTED/INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Independence 4th graders enjoy snowshoeing on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

BY INDEPENDENCE

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

4TH GRADE TEAM

Sondra Cabell, Fontana Naturalist, brought snow-

shoes to West Elementary on Tuesday, December 9th.

The fourth grade students had the opportunity to snowshoe on the playground and prairie area. The

See **WINTER**, page A12

EB Telephone Cooperative welcomes new Board of Directors

**BY EAST BUCHANAN
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE**

East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative (EBTC) held their annual cooperative membership meeting on December 1st at St. Patrick's Hall in Winthrop. Board President Terry Peterson called the meeting to order and declared a quorum of members present.

General Manager Mike Becker then read the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting which were approved.

Todd Thorson, CPA from Forvis/Mazars, presented the cooperative financial report to the membership which then approved the report. The membership also approved a meeting fee for the Directors to remain at \$200 per meeting.

The meeting agenda included changes to and restating of the EBTC Articles of Incorporation,



so Board President Terry Peterson asked Becker to explain the changes. Becker said that language is suggested to remove the requirement of offering a cable TV business, moving the amount of the cooperative membership fee from the Articles to the cooperative Bylaws which then allows the Board of Directors to adjust the membership fee amount, and to also remove language which addressed the startup of the coop-

erative elections in 1963 which is rendered moot. The membership then approved the restated Articles of Incorporation as presented.

President Peterson then requested a motion that voting for Board of Directors cease, that the votes be counted, and he appointed an election committee to tally the votes.

While the votes were being counted, Peterson asked Becker to recap the year.

General Manager Mike Becker reviewed the cooperative's activities throughout 2025. He called up the employees and gave special recognition to Stan Steele who is retiring from the cooperative at the end of the year after 48 years of service! Also recognized was Annette Kress, the former office manager who retired in July after 25 years of service. Other employees include Sara Connolly, Matt

See **DIRECTORS**, page A3

ILPT renews nuclear energy agreement

BY INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWER, TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Independence Light & Power, Telecommunications will continue meeting local electricity needs with nuclear energy through a new agreement between its not-for-profit power supplier, WPPI Energy, and NextEra Energy Resources.

"By maintaining a diverse mix of resources that includes nuclear, renewables and natural gas, we help protect our customers from cost swings that can occur when relying on any single source," said Kevin Sidles, General Manager.

WPPI will continue to take 168 megawatts (MW) of electric generation from the Point Beach Nuclear Plant into the 2050s. Located



CONTRIBUTED

Point Beach Nuclear Plant in Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

near the WPPI member community of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, Point Beach Nuclear is a major source of emissions-free baseload generation in the region and has supplied dependable power since

the early 1970s.

"Maintaining a diverse, balanced portfolio is one of the WPPI membership's greatest strengths,"

See **NUCLEAR**, page A4