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# The Enterprise

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## Smith waves machete during police chase

Laurel man leads police chase that enters Clay; attempts to ram deputy

Staff Report  
**ENTERPRISE NEWS**

A police chase in Laurel County spilled into Clay early Thursday morning as a man waved a machete at officers. Laurel Sheriff's K-9 Deputy Brian France arrested Gary Dean Smith age 55 of East Laurel road, London early Thursday morning February 9, 2023 at approx-

imately 4:52 AM. The arrest occurred off East Laurel Rd., approximately 6 miles east of London following a traffic pursuit that began on East KY 80 at Blackwater Road approximately 10 miles east of London. Deputies were conducting a traffic safety checkpoint there when a vehicle – a white Chevrolet Tahoe stopped short of the checkpoint and pulled into a driveway. When Deputy France along with

London City Police Officer Joey Robinson attempted to check the vehicle it fled through the yard around the residence traveling east on KY 80 into Clay County as the driver waved a machete out the window at deputies. As the suspect vehicle fled into Clay County it observed a Clay County



See **CHASE A8** **GARY SMITH**



County Attorney Joe White (left) reads one of the ordinances passed by the fiscal court as District One Magistrate Russell (Rabbit) Smith looks on. Photo by Mark Hoskins

## Council Pay?

Members propose \$150 salary following heated meeting

Staff Report  
**ENTERPRISE NEWS**

Things got hot Tuesday as the city council discussed proposals for a monthly salary. A \$400 monthly salary was proposed by council member Darnell Hipsher at the beginning of the meeting. Mayor Steve Collins asked if council members knew they weren't going to be paid when they filed for office. "Yes, I've known since 1999," Hipsher said. Mayor Collins said \$400 would place Manchester's council amongst the highest paid in the area. "\$400 would put you all the highest paid city council members in this area, with the exception of London," Collins said. "Why do you all feel you

See **COUNCIL A8**

## It's Official!

Court passes walking/biking county wide ordinances

Staff Report  
**ENTERPRISE NEWS**

The final phase of new ordinances to protect those walking, biking and traveling our roadways was passed by the fiscal court. The second reading of the ordinances was held Thursday at the regular scheduled meeting. According to County Attorney Joe White, the ordinance will take effect within 30 days. The ordinances come on the heels of three deaths, two involving men on a bicycle and another a pedestrian, over the last month and a half. Two other individuals have also been struck by vehicles at night. "Hopefully this will save lives," White said. The ordinances are an effort to protect motorists, pedestrians, and those bicycling, especially at night. Those failing to meet the requirements of ordinances will be charged with a Class B Misdemeanor. The regulations will apply to all person(s) walking or bicycling on a public roadway in Clay County. The above-mentioned accidents all occurred at

See **ORDINANCES A8**

## Donations Needed

Donations are now being requested to help outfit those walking and biking in light of the new ordinances. The ordinances will require safety vests, lights, and bikes with lights and reflectors. Danielle Collins and Mark Hoskins are spearheading efforts to help those in need, but they need your help also. "We are seeking monetary donations to help our citizens meet these requirements," Collins said. "You can also purchase the items needed and donate them to us." Once the needed materials are collected, the group will work in various communities across the county to distribute the items. "We will be out in these communities reaching as many people as we possibly can," Collins said. Law enforcement officers will also keep supplies to help distribute while on patrol. Volunteers are needed to help gather these items and distribute. "If you would like to donate you can contact me at 606-813-4422 or on Facebook," she said.

## New Directors

Court names Rodney Wagers, Revelle Berry emergency directors

Staff Report  
**ENTERPRISE NEWS**

New Disaster Emergency Management directors were appointed during the fiscal court meeting Thursday. Rodney Wagers, Director of the Clay EMS, and Revelle Berry will serve as director and deputy director, according to county judge-executive Tommy Harmon. Josh Wilson was previously appointed to the position but was unable to serve, Harmon told the court. Wagers will receive \$13,500 in pay with Berry getting \$12,500. In other news from the court meeting, Harmon introduced an order to name a portion of Ky. 66 in honor of the late military war veteran Henry Ledford. "Mr. Ledford was a fine man that served his country with pride and dignity," Harmon said. "This is

See **DRIVER A8**



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