



# THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

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Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

A cooking fire reportedly resulted in the loss of this home and its contents belonging to a young Quincy family on Friday night. Firefighters from four departments responded to the call on Briary Road.

## Fire destroys home/belongings at Quincy

By Dennis K. Brown

Firefighters were called to the home of a young Quincy family Friday evening when a cooking fire was reported at the residence.

Dispatchers received the call shortly before 7:00 p.m. Friday reporting the fire on Briary Road just south of KY 8 at Quincy.

Firefighters from Garrison, Black Oak, Firebrick, and Lewis County fire departments responded to the call and remained on the scene until about 9:00 p.m.

The residence was fully involved when firefighters arrived on the scene, according to Garrison Fire Capt. Hammer Cooper.

Cooper said he was attending his birthday party with several other firefighters when the call came in and they immediately responded to the scene.

The home and its contents were destroyed in the fire. Two vehicles parked near the structure were also damaged.

The home was occupied by Hunter Bonner, Ruby

Rister, and their six-week-old daughter, Katie. Crystal Rister, Ruby's mother, said the family lost all of their belongings and did not have insurance. No injuries were reported.

Chosen Path Food Pantry is working to help raise money for the family and is also accepting donations on their behalf.

Clothing sizes . . . Hunter: 34x32 Jeans XL shirts Size 9 or 10 shoes Ruby: 16/17 pants XL shirts Size 9 shoes

Katie: newborn & 0-3 clothes Newborn diapers

Donations of clothing, household items, or other assistance may be dropped off at The Chosen Path Food Pantry at 20767 KY 59. For information, Call Amanda Johnson at 606-541-7310.

## Agreement results in a plea of guilty

By Dennis K. Brown

A Vanceburg man has entered a guilty plea to two counts of second degree unlawful transaction with a minor, a class D felony.

A Lewis County grand jury originally charged Patrick Wayne Tumlin, 27, with two counts of prohibited use of electronic communication system to procure or promote a minor to engage in sexual or other prohibited activities, a class D felony.

Tumlin's trial was scheduled to begin Monday in Lewis Circuit Court.

The Commonwealth's offer on a plea of guilty recommends a total sentence of three years with opposition to probation.

According to the offer filed March 4, Tumlin " . . . knowingly and willing, agrees to not accept any position of authority, paid or volunteer, as defined in KRS 532.045, such as teacher, classified school employee, certified school employee, counselor, staff, coach, bus driver or volunteer; or



GCDC Photo

Patrick Tumlin

volunteer with a youth services organization, religious leader, or health-care provider which requires him to supervise or engage with minors."

According to the grand jury indictment, "on or about the period between July 26, 2022, through December 9, 2022, Tumlin allegedly, while acting alone or in complicity with another, used a communication system, including computers, networks, cellular telephones, or any other electronic means, for the purpose of procuring or promoting the use of a minor for illegal sexual activity."

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## Council OKs street closure, tax hike

By Dennis K. Brown

Vanceburg City Council met in regular session last week with council members voting to close Old School Lane by a 4-2 vote.

The request to close the short street, which runs parallel to the Ohio River behind the old grade school, was made by the property owner. The first reading of the proposed closure was heard by council members in February.

Council Member Kody Willis asked about access for emergency vehicles on Harper Street and John Street. The property owner said there will be ample room for fire

trucks and ambulances to access homes on both streets and would still have access on the former city street, if needed.

Willis and Council Member Joni Pugh voted against the closing.

On the second reading of an ordinance to double the city's alcohol tax from 2.5 percent to five percent, council members voted three-to-three with Mayor Dane Blankenship breaking the tie and voting to approve the proposal.

Council members heard from business owners speaking against the proposed tax increase before voting on the matter.

"There's got to be a

better way," said Jared Lewis, manager for Back Alley Spirits. "It's really tough running a small business in Vanceburg."

Council Member Angie Patton said the proposed five percent alcohol tax is lower than that in surrounding communities.

Council Member Kathy McCann said she was on council in 2018 when the alcohol tax was initially proposed at five percent and she suggested the initial rate of 2.5 percent and then to review the matter a year later.

"It's been six years," she said.

Those speaking against the increase said large

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## KAVIS implementation = Delays

By Dennis K. Brown

The Kentucky County Clerks Association (KCCA) is urging the public to be prepared as they continue to navigate through the state's new vehicle registration system, KAVIS.

County clerks are processing a high volume of transactions each day, but are facing significant delays and problematic transactions.

The KCCA has expressed concerns and frustrations to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) on behalf of its customers and staff.

KYTC has shared that the KAVIS team is working around the clock to correct programming errors in the system.

However, county clerks are still facing challenges with inconsistent information from KYTC's Motor Vehicle Licensing Division, which is slowing down service for customers.

Despite efforts to fix bugs in the system, customers are still experiencing long wait times and multiple trips to complete transactions.

KCCA President Tabatha Clemons empha-

sized the importance of customer preparedness when visiting their county clerk's office. Steps such as bringing identification, renewal notices, proof of insurance, and being prepared to wait longer than usual can help make the process more efficient.

March is the busiest month for county clerks' motor vehicle departments, with nearly one million renewal notices mailed out. The KCCA continues to work with KYTC to improve the system and provide better service to customers.

## Traffic stop results in drug arrests

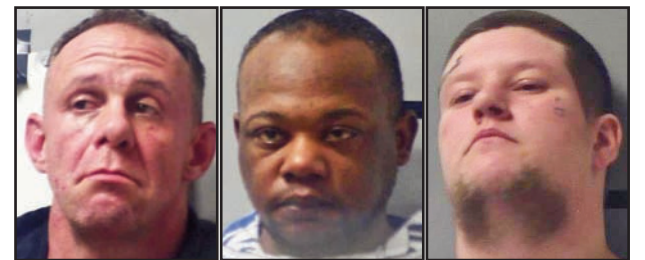
By Dennis K. Brown

Deputies made three arrests last week following a traffic stop in which a large amount of illegal drugs were found.

Sheriff Johnny Bivens said deputies recovered the illegal narcotics and a loaded firearm during the stop.

Bivens said Sgt. Mike Ginn and Deputy Scottie Prater stopped a 2020 Ford Fusion for a traffic violation on KY 59 in Vanceburg.

"Deputies observed indicators of possible drug use," Bivens said. "Deputy Scottie Prater and K-9 Knox conducted a free air sniff around the



MCDC Photos

Three arrests were made last week following a traffic stop by Lewis County deputies. Pictured, left to right, are Michael Kunick, Austin Gione, and Amber Skaggs. The three were lodged in the Mason County Detention Center.

perimeter of the vehicle where the K-9 alerted at the rear of the vehicle."

He said a search of the vehicle was conducted and deputies recovered 158 grams of methamphetamine, 41 grams of heroin, and a large quan-

tity of what appeared to be cocaine.

Deputies also recovered a 9mm Smith & Wesson handgun with two loaded magazines inside the vehicle.

Deputies arrested

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Kim Sparks/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

Judge Executive George Sparks presents Aubri Lightner with a Certificate of Appreciation for her efforts to pick up litter along the roadway in her community.

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Save-A-Lot

Harold Collier  
Kathy Potter  
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Gaye McCann

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Minnie Lewis

