



# THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

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Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

Workers take advantage of a sunny day to make roof repairs to a Vanceburg Depot Museum building. The crew recently completed repairs at Veterans Memorial Park and Scott Park in Vanceburg. With mowing season just around the corner, workers have been concentrating on maintenance projects.

## Summer workers needed for Litter Abatement

By Dennis K. Brown

Lewis County Fiscal Court met in regular session with members voting to advertise for seasonal help for the Litter Abatement Program at \$12 per hour. Four people are needed for the program which runs through the summer. Applications are being accepted at the judge executive's office.

Ambulance Board Chair Danny Palmer updated fiscal court members on progress being made to implement the local emergency medical transport service.

Palmer said through the generous contributions of other ambulance service providers, Lewis County EMS will soon have five ambulances and two chase vehicles for a total cost of less than \$20,000.

Palmer said an application for a Certificate of Need was completed on January 30 and added he had been informed that paperwork on the application has been completed.

He said a start date for the local service hasn't been determined and said the Ambulance Board is completing interviews for director and is reviewing potential station locations.

Judge Executive George Sparks thanked Palmer and other board members for their work in getting the ambulance service established.

A \$10,000 grant obtained by Lewis County Emergency Management from Enbridge Pipeline will stock more than 30 first-responder vehicles in the county with medical kits which will allow deputies, police officers, firefighters, and others to assist with first-aid as they respond to calls.

The grant will additionally help to purchase AEDs to be placed with some of the first-responders.

Magistrates approved a work order agreement with Banks Engineering in Nicholasville to determine a cost estimate for four baseball fields and a concession building at the Black Oak Recreation Park at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.

Magistrates discussed switching telephone and internet service for county facilities to Spectrum Enterprise. The matter was tabled until the April meeting to allow magistrates more time to gather information.

Approval was given to apply for a crumb rubber

grant which would pay 75 percent of the cost of benches and tables to be located at parks and recreation areas in the county.

Magistrates approved an annual jail budget of \$643,400 and a \$1,000 contribution to Red Cross. The same contribution was made in 2023.

Magistrates approved the appointment of Paula Mason to the Lewis County Health Department board for a two year term. She is replacing Steve Applegate on the board who is stepping down.

Approval was given to hire Ray McClurg as a full-time employee of the road department at an hourly pay of \$12.00 per hour and approved hiring Myron Conn as a seasonal worker with the solid waste department at \$12.00 per hour.

Approval was given to hire James "Mike" Sparks as a full-time janitorial worker at an annual rate of \$21,000, and approved hiring Randy Thoroughman as a full-time employee for Lewis County Workforce at an annual rate of \$32,000.

Magistrates approved a mowing agreement with Brewer Lawn Service for

work at the Black Oak Industrial Park from April 1 through October 31 for a total of \$400. The rate is unchanged from previous years.

Magistrates approved the payment of bills and fund transfers before adjourning.

## Plant Board hears project update

By Dennis K. Brown

The Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg met in regular session with members hearing the latest update on the long-running Black Oak Package Plant Consolidation Project.

"The project has still not been closed out due to some flow metering issues," Plant Board Superintendent Bill Tom Stone told board members.

"The contractor has ordered the parts and is working to clean these issues up so we can finish the project," Stone said. "We will also have a few clean-up items to complete once spring comes."

"Our engineers are working with the contractors to finish all open issues and we hope to have a closing meeting by spring," Stone added.

"However, the plant is working as designed and the package plants are being decommissioned."

## Students recognized by Board of Education

By Dennis K. Brown

Members of the Lewis County Board of Education met in regular session with board members recognizing student accomplishments in the district.

Among those recognized during the meeting were Skills USA Regional Winners Hunter Carpenter, Triton Spencer, Logan Gilliam, Taylor Bryant, and Trenton Pelphey.

Board members also recognized several students for 1000 Sight Word Recognition.

From Lewis County Central Elementary were Dallas Murphy, Kylie Bivens, and Paige Holmes. From Garrison Elementary students recognized were Noah Laframboise, Everett Thurman, Kodee Rister, Paydence Knell, Jesse Davenport, Oliver Darling, Levi Needham, Gavin Cooper, and Chloe Cross.

Board members heard staff reports from Garrison Elementary Principal Sarah Porter and Lewis

County Central Elementary Principal Stacy Kidwell.

The board also heard a construction update on projects in the district from Travis Curry with Trace Creek Construction and Michael Hughes with RossTarrant Architect.

Board members approved several items related to those construction projects:

- BG4 Form for Contract Closeout with Trace Creek Construction, Inc. for project BG #22-367 Track Resurface.

- BG4 Form for Contract Closeout with Donahue Mechanical for project BG#22-149 APR ESSER for Tollesboro and Laurel Elementary.

- BG4 Form for Contract Closeout with Trace Creek Construction, Inc. for project BG#22-149 APR ESSER for Tollesboro and Laurel Elementary.

- BG4 Form for Contract Closeout with General Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. for project BG#22-149 APR

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board in May with a proposal."

Stone said Katie Yunker of the McBrayer Law Firm is reviewing a proposed contract for a supply of electric power for the City of Vanceburg.

"Once she has completed her review, we will work with Acumen to clean up any issues with the provider we choose and the board," Stone told board members.

Stone said the Advanced Metering Infrastructure system upgrade is continuing to be implemented.

"We are around 75 percent complete but will take several more months and we hope that the new system will improve our response to outages and help with other efficiencies," Stone said.

"The new meters have been 100 percent tested before they are shipped to ensure their accuracy," he

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## COVID-19 isolation shortened

By Melissa Patrick  
Kentucky Health News

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated guidance for how long people need to isolate when they get COVID-19, to match the guidance for dealing with other viruses.

"While every respiratory virus does not act the same, adopting a unified approach to limiting disease spread makes recommendations easier to follow and thus more likely to be adopted and does not rely on individuals to test for illness, a practice that data indicates is uneven," the CDC said in a news release.

As of March 1, people who test positive for

COVID-19 no longer need to stay isolated for five days, but instead can return to their regular activities if their symptoms are mild and improving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medication.

"This advice is similar to what has been recommended for flu for decades and will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses during the most contagious period after infection," says a separate advisory.

Once people get back to their normal activities, the CDC acknowledges that some people may still be contagious. Be-

cause of this, it calls on people to take additional precautions for the next five days, such as gathering outdoors when possible, practicing good hygiene, keeping a distance from others and wearing a well-fitting mask.

The CDC says it is making updates to the recommendations now because the U.S. is seeing far fewer hospitalizations and deaths associated with COVID-19 and because there are more tools than ever to combat flu, COVID and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

"This announcement reflects the progress we have made in protecting

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Roger Jahn/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

A tow boat makes a brief stop in the Ohio River at Vanceburg to allow for a crew swap. Boats routinely stop near the ramp at the end of Court Street to allow fresh workers to board and workers getting off duty to get a ride home.

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Save-A-Lot

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