PROCLAMATION Cont. from page 1

partners serves to improve the quality of service for those most profoundly and directly affected by sexual violence; and the Kentucky Rape Crisis Center Coalition, the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs has reached its 34th year of speaking with a unified voice against sexual victimization;

I, George Sparks, Lewis County Judge Executive, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in



Dennis Brown/Lewis County Herald NOW, THEREFORE, Judge Executive George Sparks has proclaimed April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in Lewis County. Local officials gathered to mark the occasion. Pictured (L-R) are Victims Advocate Whitney Maddix, County Attorney Benjamin Harrison, Ion Center Non-Residential Services Coordinator Tammy Brown, Judge Executive George Sparks, and County Treasurer Penny Lee.

Opinion

HB 509 would destroy tradition of openness

By Jon Fleishaker and Michael Abate

Repeatedly in recent weeks, Gov. Andy Beshear has come out in favor of House Bill 509, a bill that would dramatically weaken Kentucky's open records laws. The governor has tried to assure citizens the bill would result in more transparency, not less. The governor is wrong; this bill will inevitably lead to the public's business being done in private.

The governor's argument that the bill does more good than harm doesn't hold water. HB 509 may not be as bad as it once was — thanks to public outcry over the havoc the original version of the bill would have wrought — but it still would create a glaring loophole allowing public officials and employees (like the governor and those who work in his administration) to easily hide their work from the public.

You don't need to be a lawyer to see why this bill is so dangerous. HB 509 requires public agencies to create email accounts for all public officials and employees. That's a good step that any middle schooler could closes a relatively small exploit it. Nor will it prevent loophole that exists in the the public from justifiably law today. Also laudable is considering you the one who expert who serves as general the bill's requirement that destroyed Kentucky's long counsel to the Kentucky officials and employees only tradition of openness if this Press Association. He pracuse their public email ac- bill becomes law. counts. and not personal Next, the governo emails. But HB 509 then does an shielding communications gates open records and First abrupt about-face that renders these modest improvements hollow gestures. For the first time ever, the law would limit where an agency needs to search for responsive records. An agency that creates these new email accounts only needs to search those accounts, or other publicly owned devices, for responsive electronic records. All other communication channels may be ignored by public agencies responding That ad hominem attack is a gates open records and First to records requests.

lic employees, like all peo- sary, though uncomfortable, ple, use a variety of questions: Why does Gov. platforms to do the public's Beshear disagree with Attorbusiness — texts, other messaging apps, collaboration text messages are the goverif they are discussing public a national platform? business — as Attorney General Andy Beshear repeatedly ruled — they will that it never made the pubbecome effectively off limits lic's right to access its if the bill is passed and records dependent on the signed into law. What do you technology used to create a think public officials and employees are going to do if is stored. Rather, the act's portation are being hanthey would prefer not to drafters made all records dled have their decisions second- available so long as they guessed? You got it; they concern the public's busiwill simply communicate by means other than their work email. And contrary to what reverse course and use a some of HB 509's proponents have said, nothing in shunned by future generathe bill prohibits that.

What is the governor's response to this criticism? At a recent press conference, he began by appealing to his lic's business will be done manufacturer own reputation for transparency. Sorry, Governor, The public is at risk of for-"trust me" does not explain away a loophole so glaring out that someone intent on LLP, where he regularly litiwon't turn over their texts or Amendment disputes across direct messages anyway. But the commonwealth. Fleisthat's why we have an attor- chaker was among the origney general appeal process inal authors of the state's and judicial oversight. We Open Records and Open don't repeal our criminal Meetings Acts. laws because criminals are likely to break them, do we? cuses the authors of this *counsel to the Kentucky* piece (one of whom helped Press Association. He pracwrite the law) of not under- tices law at the firm of Kastanding how the Open plan Johnson Abate & Bird Records Act really works. LLP, where he regularly liti-

communicates only by email for the public. And it should in 2024? Of course not. Pub- force us to ask some necesnev General Beshear? What tools, private social media nor and his administration messages and more. Even trying to hide? Is he selling though all records belong to out Kentucky's transparency the public under current law laws to make it easier to seek

The brilliance of Kentucky's Open Records Act is record or the place where it ness.

Now is the wrong time to increasingly technology tions to limit the public's right to access its records. The inevitable outcome of such a law is that the pubthrough "private" channels. ever losing the right to supervise its public servants. $\wedge \wedge \wedge \wedge$

Jon Fleischaker is a media law and First Amendment tices at the law firm of Kaplan Johnson Abate & Bird Michael Abate is a media law and First Amendment Finally, the governor ac- expert who serves as general tell that the governor knows Amendment disputes across

Cont. from page 1

to Lewis County EMS during the February meeting by voting to cancel the contract with Portsmouth Ambulance.

ambulance board have been working really hard to get to where we are able to start the ambutold magistrates during the meeting.

Sparks credited County Attorney Benjamin Harrison for his work on the application to obtain a license.

"He worked night and day for about a week on the full certificate of need application and did an outstanding job on it. We got it submitted with and businesses."

Sparks said he and other local officials have been in contact with ambulance services in all surrounding counties "who have all said, 'we will step up. We will help you County EMS as soon as if you get in a bind and take runs," Sparks said. "And they have. They have come into our county many times (for mutual aid)."

Emergency medical 911 calls for ambulance transby ambulance services in surrounding counties based on avail-

PAYMENTS Cont. from page 1

Midwestern states with regional supermarket chain Meijer.

Other settlements, including with OxyContin Purdue Pharma, are pending.

Follow the QR code for more information.



ability and geographic lo- tinue to provide service in cation.

In an incident over the ATV accident in the Garmedical helicopter.

Sparks said Lewis lance service here in County first responders Lewis County," Sparks are also continuing to provide service in assisting with the initial response to urgent medical calls.

> "I am more than proud of our own first-responders for their selfless efforts in providing service peared for the first time to our citizens," Sparks on Lewis County propsaid.

ambulance board has two ceeds realized by the taxambulances that have ing entity in December. many letters of support been generously donated The tax has been applied from several different by other entities . . . and to motor vehicles and waagencies in the county, they have purchased an- tercraft since January 1. other ambulance," Sparks said.

> He added that two other possible.

Portsmouth Ambulance officials notified the cost. county on February 24, 2022, of the intent to for EMS and paramedic close their Lewis County hub within 30 days be- service may drop off recause they were losing sumes in person at the money.

tion with the initial to one-year term calling for @lewiscountyky.gov. Lewis County to subsidize PEASI \$16,000 per tion, please call Danny month for them to con- Palmer at 606-748-0773.

the county.

Funding for the first weekend in which a one-year contract was alyouth was injured in an located from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) "Danny Palmer and the rison area, Portsmouth money received by the Ambulance responded county. Craig Stanfield along with an Air Evac was serving as judge executive at that time.

Last year magistrates approved the creation of an ambulance tax and a five-member board was named to oversee the creation and operation of the local EMS service.

The property tax was established at 10 cents per \$100 valuation and aperty tax bills mailed in "The (Lewis County) October with the first pro-

The contract for service with Portsmouth Ambulance was renewed for ambulances have been one year in April 2023 at donated and the process a negotiated \$19,000 per is underway to have those month. The City of transferred to Lewis Vanceburg agreed to assist the county and had been contributing \$3,000 per month toward the

Those wishing to apply positions with the local Judge Executive's Office A contract was negoti- in the Lewis County ated as a short-term solu- Courthouse or email them LewisCountyEMS

For additional informa-

Now Hiring EMTs & Paramedics

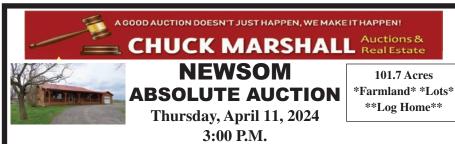
The Lewis County Ambulance Service District is seeking applications for EMTs and paramedics.

Resumes may be dropped off in person at the Judge Executive's Office in the Lewis County Courthouse or emailed to LewisCountyEMS@ lewiscountyky.gov.

For additional information, please call Danny Palmer at 606-748-0773. PUBLIC NOTICE 15

Do you know anyone who his position isn't adding up Kentucky.





Farm Location: 4954 Energy Road, Flemingsburg KY Auction Location: Fleming County Golf Course

Tract 1: 2.4 acres (+or-) located at the corner of Ky. Hwy. 1325 (Energy Road) and Cord Lane. A very nice corner lot, County water available, over 200' of road frontage on Cord Lane, 260' frontage on Ky. Hwy. 1325. A large barn is located on this property.

Tract 2: 1.1 acres (+or-) with a Log Home with approximately 1050 sq. ft. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, Large Kitchen and Front room, mud room, utility room. Metal Roof, Large detached garage log sided. Home built in 1998 (per PVA info). County water Frontage on very little used county road. Nice setting!!

Tract 3: Consisting of 2.3 acres (+or-) A wonderful tract of land with frontage on Cord Lane!!! County water available. Great building site.

Tract 4: Consisting of 13.8 acres (+or-). A Great level to rolling tract. A super tract of land that has several possibilities.

Tract 5: Consisting of 10.9 acres (+or-). This tract is mostly level with frontage on Ky. Hwy. 1325. A large cattle or horse barn located on this tract.

Tract 6: Consisting of 71.0 acres (+or-) A great pasture tract with woods and creek flowing thru it. Frontage on Ky. Hwy. 1325. Would be a great hunting or livestock farm.

Buy one tract, a combination of tracts or all of them

Terms: 5% buyer's premium will be added to all final bids to determine final sale price. Real Estate: Non- refundable escrow deposit of 10% of purchase price (sale price plus buyer's premium) due day of auction. Balance due in 30 days, at closing, on or before May 11, 2024.

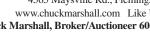
Notes: Property is being sold as-is/where-is. No financial contingencies. Property selling subject to any and all recorded or unrecorded easements, restrictions and covenants.

Contact Auctioneers Chuck Marshall @ 606-782-0374, Ronnie Lawson @ 859-494-9305, Lori Kielman @ 606-782-1554 or the Office @ 606-845-5010 with questions

For more information, pictures and map, visit www.chuckmarshall.com or www.auctionzip.com (auctioneer ID #1198)

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