



THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

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DOWN TO BUSINESS . . . Judge Executive George Sparks, Ambulance Committee Chair Danny Palmer, and EMS Director Michael Byble (L-R) discuss some final ambulance stocking needs as the local emergency medical transport service prepares to begin operations. Applicants for EMT and paramedic positions are being sought (see back page ad).

Black Oak Project still on active list

By Dennis K. Brown provider.

The Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg met in regular session with board members hearing another 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,” he said. “We will also have a few clean-up items to complete once things dry up a little. Our engineers are working with the contractors to finish all open issues and we hope to have a closing meeting by the end of May. However, the plant is working as designed and the package plants are being decommissioned.”

Stone said he and other utility officials are still working with Acumen to hammer out the best contract for next electric

“Though fuel costs are lower than last year right now, the market is building a hedge on fixed contracts to protect itself from the unpredictable marketplace,” he said.

“The main drivers for this hedging seem to be world fuel consumption, decommissioning of coal plants, new sources of generation not being as predictable and steady, and pure caution over the past year,” Stone said.

As of right now both AEP (American Electric Power) and AMP (American Municipal Power), are very competitive with their bids,” he explained. Acumen is working on a final refresh of the bids and will come back to the board in May with a proposal.”

“Katie Yunker of the McBrayer Law Firm has reviewed a proposed contract for a supply of electric power for the City of Vanceburg,” Stone said. “She has sent a letter with her concerns and I have forwarded those concerns

Reading students recognized by Board of Ed

By Dennis K. Brown

The Lewis County Board of Education met in regular session with members recognizing 1,000 Sight Words Recipients from Tollesboro, Garrison, and Laurel elementary schools.

Garrison Elementary students recognized included Ryder Powell, Brianna Goddard, Cashton Ginn, Dixieanne Lime, Remington Stone, Harper Ruggles, Maxwell Cross, Mason Ruggles, Kodey Pollard, Eastern Applegate, and Olivia Wolfe.

Students from Laurel Elementary who were recognized at the meeting are Harlee Rankins and Gabriel Fraley.

Tollesboro Elementary students recognized for 1,000 sight word recognition are Ember Stamper, Oliver Owens, Alaska Moore, Lincoln McClain, Bentley Applegate, Braelyn Bradford, Luke Dowden and Jayce Esham.

Superintendent Jamie Weddington presented the staff report to board members with a review of how the recently passed state budget will affect school districts.

Weddington said there are some positives and added raises for district employees will be set as the budget allows.

He noted that since the COVID pandemic, enrollment in the district has decreased substantially resulting in decreased funding for the district.

Board members heard a construction update on projects in the district from Eric Fryer with Trace Creek Construction and Michael Hughes with RossTarrant Architect.

Members approved a change order with Donahue Mechanical, Inc. (+\$1690.00) for greenhouse meter setting for the New Lewis County Career and Technical Center project.

Members also approved the continuation of the agreement for attorney Benjamin Harrison to represent the Lewis County Board of Education in all aspects of the lawsuit with the City of Vanceburg related to payroll tax imposed on school district employees.

Members approved the minutes of the last regular meeting and five special meetings held since that regular session.

As the school year moves toward completion, board members approved several items of regular business.

- Resolution for application of Kentucky Office of Homeland Security Project.
- Capital Funds Request Form.
- 2024-2025 District Professional Development Plan.
- Summer Youth Program contact for summer 2024.
- District Technology Plan 2024-2025 school year.
- Revised MOA with MSU and Lewis County High School.
- Revised staffing allocation including section 7 funds for Lewis County Central Elementary

School.

- Revised staffing allocation including section 7 funds for Garrison Elementary School.
- Revised staffing allocation including section 7 funds for Laurel Elementary School.
- Revised staffing allocation

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Second chance options available

By Dennis K. Brown

Gov. Andy Beshear announced a second-chance.ky.gov website, which connects Kentuckians overcoming addiction or leaving incarceration to resources that can help them find a job, get an education and support their continued recovery.

The website was launched in conjunction with the nationally recognized Second Chance Month. The month is dedicated to supporting those who have paid their debt to society and are returning to their communities to live productive lives.

“My faith teaches me that there are second chances in this life – and that we are all our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers. To help every Kentuckian reach their full potential, we must live out our faith and values and help those struggling,” said Beshear.

“In Scripture, we are

told, ‘So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.’ With the historic economic progress we’re seeing, we have a responsibility to make sure prosperity reaches every Kentuckian,” he said.

“No matter the struggle, we have resources to help folks get back on their feet and find a good job.”

The site includes four areas of information: finding a job, getting an education, benefits for businesses and recovery resources.

Finding a Job

With so many jobs being created across the commonwealth, Team Kentucky wants to help make sure every Kentuckian has an opportunity to chase their dreams right here at home. The site includes information on resume help, job searches and a variety of reentry services.

The Governor highlighted the Kentucky State Parks’ focus on hiring second-chance talent. He was joined by Kentucky Dam Village Park Manager Scot Ratzlaff and Sarah Young, who works at the park as a cook.

“This program allows Kentucky Dam Village to provide opportunities for people who have served their time and need assistance getting back into the workforce,” said Ratzlaff. “It isn’t just about filling a workforce need; it’s about giving these individuals a chance to rebuild their lives and develop new skills. This program proves that we believe in second chances and the power of redemption.”

“Scot Ratzlaff and Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park saw my potential and began working with this program, which

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Road repairs at Tollesboro

Herald Report

Motorists should expect daytime closures of KY 10 near Tollesboro in Lewis County over the next two weeks for embankment repairs.

The work began Monday with crews closing KY 10 between the Cabin Creek bridge and Tolles-

boro Auction (milepoints 5-6) from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each weekday for the repairs.

Work could take up to two weeks to complete. When the road is closed, motorists should detour using the AA Highway (KY 9), KY 57, or other routes.

create additional hazards by blocking sight distance or distracting drivers, particularly at intersections.

It is also improper to attach items such as flyers, posters, balloons or streamers to stop signs, highway markers or any other road sign or utility pole. Improper placement on utility poles presents additional obstacles and potential dangers for utility crew workers.

Items removed by the crews are taken to each county’s KYTC maintenance facility and held for 30 days.

Unclaimed materials after that period are either trashed or recycled.

Illegal signage will be removed

Herald Report

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) reminds political candidates, residents, business operators and property owners along US and KY routes that no signage is allowed on the right of way other than official highway signs and items approved through a permit process.

Any campaign signs must be placed beyond right of way limits, according to state law.

The right of way fence is included with this restriction. For roads with a right of way fence, no signs may be attached to it. Items placed on right of way create significant

delays for mowing crews and are potential hazards for mowing operators and passing motorists.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet crews will remove improperly placed items along state maintained right of way areas, and trash cleanup cycles are scheduled periodically.

The KYTC also wants to take this opportunity to educate all Kentucky residents about state highway right of way issues. In addition to elections, the restriction often becomes a problem with such things as yard sales and real estate advertising. Improperly placed materials along roads can

create additional hazards by blocking sight distance or distracting drivers, particularly at intersections.

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Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD Local historian Bill Tom Stone (left) talks with the 2024 class of Leadership Horizons during their tour of Lewis County. The program provides an opportunity for participants to help them become strong positive influences on the future of the communities they serve.

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