



THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

75¢ Volume 101 The Only Newspaper Published in Lewis County Vanceburg, Kentucky Phone 606-796-2331 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024 NUMBER 2024-47



Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

A CSX worker places gravel for a temporary crossing for residents on Everman Lane at Garrison. Crews replaced most crossings in Lewis County resulting in temporary closures of those crossings as work was being completed. Alternate routes were maintained and emergency plans were in place during the project.

Magistrates hear broadband update, adopt roadway

By Dennis K. Brown

Lewis County Fiscal Court met in regular session last week with magistrates approving the adoption of about 650 feet of Lexi Lane off Hazel Road into the county road system. The roadway serves 10 homes.

Kevin Duff, a Lexi Lane resident, addressed magistrates and said the roadway serves 20 to 30 residents and added he was only requesting that it be maintained in its current condition.

The motion to adopt the roadway passed unanimously although Magistrate Johnny Osborne stated some concerns with setting a precedent.

“We’re opening up the county to adopt a lot of roads in,” he stated prior to the vote being taken.

Court members heard from a Spectrum representative who said a \$28 million project to expand broadband in the county to include some 450 miles of fiber and provide access to about 3,700 homes is well underway.

Spectrum/Charter earlier received a state grant of about \$17 million toward the project and has been working on a “walk-out and design phase” which is nearly complete,

according to Benjamin U’Sellis, Director of Government Affairs for the communications company.

U’Sellis said completion is expected within about two years but added service will be available to residents in each of about 30 areas of the county as soon as the construction is completed in each area.

He added that once completed, nearly all homes in the county will have access to high-speed internet.

“It’s a pretty extensive project,” U’Sellis added, stating that customers will have access to up to one Gbps symmetrical speeds.

He said he would provide local officials with the current address listing of the proposed project area, stressing that the listing will likely change over the course of the project.

U’Sellis said Phase II of the project, which is just getting underway, involves submitting information to utility pole owners and then waiting for permits to be approved.

Magistrate Mark Horsley asked about a deadline for completion with U’Sellis responding that

the target is by the end of 2026, with service to residents being offered earlier as each of about 30 project areas in the county are completed.

“We will activate along the way,” he said.

He added there are “plenty of crews and materials available” for the project.

Approval was given to a bridge replacement project on Ribolt-Epworth Road at a total cost of about \$123,000. The state will reimburse \$80,000 toward that project if the application is approved.

The reappointments of Mike Setters and Leoma Rigdon to the Extension District Board were approved and court members adopted a resolution to apply for FEMA grant funding for an outdoor warning siren to be placed at the school campus on Lions Lane.

Members approved paying recurring expenses on a satellite phone which will be provided to Emergency Management by the Lewis County Health Department through grant funding.

Judge Executive George Sparks announced the county had received a spay/neuter grant for the animal shelter in the amount of \$1,100.

Vanceburg tax rates unchanged

By Dennis K. Brown

Vanceburg City Council met in a brief special session last week with only two items on the agenda.

Members approved setting real estate tax rates along with a budget amendment after hearing second readings of both.

Property tax rates will remain unchanged from the previous several years at 13 cents per \$100 valuation while the rate on personal and intangible property remains at 14 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The ordinance, which

received its second reading prior to approval on Friday, also sets penalties and interest for delinquent taxpayers as well as a two percent discount for those who pay early.

The tax bills will be mailed before the end of this month with the discount applied to those who pay by December 31.

Face value of the tax bill is due by January 31, 2025, and become delinquent if not paid by February 1, 2025.

The ordinance states all monies collected will go into the city’s general

fund and will be used for the “payment of proper expenditures as determined by the City Council.”

The budget amendment ordinance, also receiving its second reading, adjusts the city’s budget by increasing the amount budgeted to be received from State Fire Aid from \$11,500 to \$15,000.

The regular meeting of council, which would have been November 4, was canceled resulting in the special meeting to set the tax rates allowing for tax bills to be mailed by December 1.

End of long-running project now in sight

By Dennis K. Brown

The Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg met in regular session last week with members hearing good news concerning a long-running sewer plant consolidation project for the Black Oak area.

“We have completed the final paperwork for the Black Oak Sewer plant permit renewal and it is in the final stages of approval,” said Plant Board Superintendent Bill Tom Stone. “We hope to hear back by the end of the month.”

Stone also gave some good news about steps to help limit power outages for customers.

“The tree-trimming company is in the area helping us clear the right-of-way for our electric lines,” he told board members. “Our linemen have worked hard to keep our lines free of trees, but with this company we hope to clean up the trees around homes and the highways.”

In new business, Stone said the preliminary application for the well project

has been submitted for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding.

“We are now waiting for the invitation for a formal application,” he said. “In addition, we will be applying for grant funds to cover the cost of the matching portion of the ARC grant.”

Stone reported Premier Power Maintenance is working with Larry Spencer to schedule tests on key components of the electric system.

“It will more than likely be the late fall, maybe early December, and should cause little issues with service to our customers,” Stone said.

Stone reported a rate increase for water and sewer customers following a formula based on the Consumer Price Index.

“The CPI for the current year shows that the rate of inflation is slowing and that the year-over-year rate will increase around three percent for the current year,” he said. “If so, we will raise water and

Please see page 8

Precision shooters receive scholarships

By Daniel Miller

The Ledger Independent

The two time Kentucky State Champion Air Rifle Team from Lewis County High School’s JROTC Precision Air Rifle Team has been assigned a merit based four-year scholarship from Schreiner University and will shoot for the University’s Rifle Team.

Lewis County seniors Mya Burriss, Courtney Carpenter, and Eden Skidmore each accepted the scholarship to SU, and are eager to continue their athletic and academic careers with the Mountaineers.

“Great kids, hard workers. They put in the effort. They’re the kids that they’d give up a prom or a homecoming to make sure they’re at a match,” said Lewis County JROTC shooting coach, MSG James Stone, “I’ve

got kids that scrape together their nickles and dimes and quarters so they can put two or three gallons of gas in their cars so they can make it to practice. These kids work hard. Absolutely the hardest working kids I’ve ever seen, and that’s coming from an army guy.”

Burriss, Carpenter and Skidmore have each been a huge part of the Lewis County precision rifle team throughout their high school careers, helping lead their team to two Kentucky state championships, an Ohio state championship, a seventh brigade JROTC championship, and several other accomplishments throughout their time with the team.

“We’ve placed fifth in our region, which covers about 27 states, and top 10 in nationals,” said MSG Stone.

Precision air rifle competitions are scored out of a possible 600 points, with shooters taking twenty shots toward the target from three different positions, prone, standing and kneeling. Lewis County has consistently scored in the high 580s, with Burriss, Carpenter, and Skidmore helping lead the pack for their team.

The trio was preparing for their first competition of their senior year last week at Camp Perry in Port Clinton, Ohio.

“We have to be up at 2:30, we leave Lewis County at four in the morning, we drive to Camp Perry and get there at about 10:00. We’ll shoot until about two or three, we’ll get out and get something to eat and we’ll get here usually about 8 p.m. It’s a long

Please see page 8



Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD Three JROTC Precision Air Rifle Team members sign letters of intent during a ceremony at Lewis County High School. Pictured (L-R) are MSG James Stone, Mya Burriss, Courtney Carpenter, Eden Skidmore, and LCHS Athletic Director Josh Hughes.

75¢



Index

Classifieds	7
Court News	4
Obituaries	5
Sports	2

Inserts

Collins Country Market
Save-A-Lot

Obituaries

Cotton LeMaster
Clyde Sullivan
Shannon Bowers
Connie Smith

©2024 LEWIS COUNTY HERALD PUBLISHING CO., INC.

