

# 2024, Year in Review part 2...

May 7, 2024

Lewis EMS moves closer to reality. "We are working diligently and as fast as we can to have the service up and going," says Lewis County EMS Director Michael Byble. Byble and members of the Ambulance Service District Board have spent the past week interviewing applicants for EMT and paramedic positions with the service in addition to completing dozens of end-of-the-list requirements to get the service operating. One of those requirements was having a medical director. Ambulance Service District Board Chair Danny Palmer said Dr. Travis Bentz has been named as Lewis County EMS Medical Director and is busy completing several tasks required of that position. Several crashes are under

home. Bivens said the family of Tammy Logan resides at the home. He adds only one member of the family was inside when the incident happened and was in a bedroom away from the point of impact at the front door. Other family members were outside the residence and no one in the family was injured, he added. Evans and a passenger in the Terrain, Hazel Fannin, 93, of Vanceburg, both received multiple injuries in the crash, according to Bivens. Crash results in multiple fatalities. Officials are investigating a multiple fatality motor vehicle crash early last Wednesday on KY 8. Sheriff Johnny Bivens said an east-bound vehicle with two occupants apparently traveled off the left side of the roadway and went over an embankment, coming to rest on its

like to make my own comment about the letter to the editor," began Cantu. Mowing season opens in Kentucky. Mowing season is underway along Kentucky highways, meaning highway crews and contractors are out mowing and trimming grass along roadways across the commonwealth. Drivers should be prepared to encounter mowing crews during daylight hours anytime the weather conditions allow crews to be on the road. Storms cause some damage. Several Lewis County residents are continuing some clean up following storms last week passing through the area. High wind Tuesday evening blew down several trees in the area of Fuller Branch, about three miles south of Vanceburg Tuesday evening with some of the trees blocking KY 59 until crews could clear the roadway. One of the trees reportedly fell on a house in that area causing some damage. A tornado warning was issued for the northwest portion of Lewis County and southern Adams County about 8:25 p.m. Tuesday when weather service radar indicated rotation associated with a storm passing through the area.

May 21, 2024

Fiscal court approves rural secondary program. Lewis County Fiscal Court met in regular session last week with magistrates approving the state's annual rural secondary road program as presented by Brandon Howe. Approval was given to surplus some road department trucks to sell at auction and to lease new trucks. Magistrates heard the first reading of a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year and approved a waste tire grant agreement. Voter registration grew ahead of primary. Secretary of State Michael Adams announced that voter registration continued to grow ahead of the May primary, with 8,306 new voters registering April 1 through the April 22 pre-primary registration deadline. Problems persist with package plant project. Plant Board Superintendent Bill Tom Stone says the Black Oak Package Plant Consolidation Project has still not been closed out due to some flow metering issues. Stone made the report to members during a regular meeting of the Electric Plant Board of The City of Vanceburg last week. Harmany House to end food pantry. Vanceburg Methodist Church has voted to end service at the Harmany House Food Pantry. "Due to unforeseen circumstances the pantry grew too big too fast and we didn't have the resources or the volunteers to keep it going," said Dr. Joshua Sparks with Vanceburg Methodist Church.

May 28, 2024

Student achievements recognized by Board of Ed. The Lewis County Board of Education met in regular session with members hearing good news concerning several students in the district who have received special recognition for their efforts. Board members heard a construction update on projects in the district from Travis Curry with Trace Creek Construction, and Michael Hughes and Goda Jiang with RossTarrant Architect. Lewis County primary election results. While many of Lewis County's eligible voters took advantage of early voting opportunities, a total of 1,348, or 13.5 percent, of Lewis County's eligible voters ended up casting their ballots last week in the primary election. LCHS Class of 2024 graduation was held Friday, May 17. Emergency Declaration includes area counties. After declaring a state of emergency as 19 tornadoes swept across the commonwealth April 2-3, Gov. Andy Beshear requested a federal disaster declaration, which was approved by President Joe Biden. The Governor requested the declaration in April, and the approval makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Boyd, Carter, Fayette, Greenup, Henry, Jefferson,



May 7, 2024

**LEWIS COUNTY HERALD**  
**LCHS PROM ROYALTY . . . 2024 Prom Queen Aubrey Hicks and Prom King Aiden Wisecup.**

investigation. Tollesboro Fire and Rescue responders were called out early Friday when a tractor/trailer went off the roadway and overturned onto its side on KY 57 at the intersection of Burtonville Road. The incident happened about 3:00 a.m. The driver was trapped inside the cab of the truck for a short time until rescuers could free him. Vanceburg Police are investigating an incident last Tuesday evening involving a semi crashing into a utility pole that resulted in a church porch roof being torn off. The incident happened about 7:30 p.m. on Fairlane Drive in Vanceburg when a 1992 Peterbilt tractor operated by Russell Cottingham struck a utility pole near Vanceburg Christian Baptist Church. Deputies are investigating a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of the AA Highway and Grayson Spur last Wednesday afternoon that sent one of the drivers to the hospital. Webb honored for conservation efforts. Sen. Robin L. Webb has received the prestigious Excellence in Advocacy Award from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, recognizing her crucial work to support conservation and elk habitat in southeastern Kentucky. The award capped off a years-long effort to permanently protect the Cumberland Forest Wildlife Management Area in Bell, Knox and Leslie counties. The 55,000-acre conservation easement is the largest in state history and will preserve public access to the area for hunting and other activities.

May 14, 2024

Two hurt when vehicle crashes into home. First responders were called out Sunday afternoon when a vehicle reportedly ran off the roadway and struck a mobile home in southern Lewis County. Dispatchers received a call shortly before 2:00 p.m. Sunday reporting the incident on KY 59 across from Morgan Cemetery at Head of Grassy. Sheriff Johnny Bivens said a northbound 2013 GMC Terrain, operated by Larry D. Evans, 77, of Vanceburg, reportedly went off the right side of the roadway and traveled some distance through a hayfield before striking a mobile

side near CSX Railroad tracks. The incident happened about a mile-and-a-half west of Flag Point. Dispatchers were notified of the crash about 1:00 a.m. Wednesday. Sheriff's deputies and Vanceburg police officers responded to the scene along with first-responders from Garrison, Black Oak, Firebrick, and Vanceburg volunteer fire departments, and Greenup County Ambulance Authority. The occupants of the vehicle have been identified as Scottie Borger, 23, and Karys Shaw, 18, and her unborn daughter. They were pronounced dead at the scene by Coroner Tony Gaydos. Meeting of council becomes heated. Tensions were high at last week's regular meeting of Vanceburg City Council. The meeting kicked off with an update from Angie Patton with the Electric Plant Board informing the council that any citizen of Vanceburg who does not have an updated meter will have to pay a \$25 fee for meters to be read starting in July. Mayor Dane Blankenship moved on to request approval of a surplus sale to auction off four police cruisers sometime at the beginning of June. The auction would be open to the public. A motion was made, seconded and approved. When the council returned from executive session, Blankenship updated the audience on the success of the previous week-end's River Town Fair. Council Member Nichole Cantu spoke up next. First, she thanked the council on behalf of the residents of Holiday Drive for the recent black top job that had been done there saying those who live there are very pleased. Next Cantu brought up the family of Hannah Bellamy. Bellamy's family held a memorial walk in her honor and the family wanted Cantu to express their thanks to the council on their behalf. The final topic Cantu wanted to discuss with the individuals at the meeting was pertaining to a letter to the editor that had been written by Cary Cagle and submitted in THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD the week prior. "I'm sure everybody in here has got to read last week's edition of THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD and with that being said I'd



June 4, 2024

**Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD**  
**Nursing Director Amy McClurg welcomes Lewis County EMS as they drop off a Vanceburg Nursing and Rehab resident on their inaugural run Friday. Lewis County EMS had just received the green light to begin serving the citizens of Lewis County as an ambulance service.**

Jessamine, Mason, Oldham, Union and Whitley counties. The Governor said additional counties could be added after additional damage assessments are completed. Suicide prevention tool is free resource. This story discusses suicide. If you or someone you know is contemplating suicide, please call or text the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.

June 4, 2024

Lewis County EMS is Open for Business. "We are happy to announce that Lewis County EMS is up and going," says Lewis County EMS Director Michael Byble. Byble announced on the local emergency medical transportation service's radio system Friday at 2:26 p.m. that the service was officially in operation. "Show Lewis County EMS in service for calls," Byble said to Dispatcher Carla Howe before asking her to conduct a tone test on the frequency. "Loud and clear. Thank you," Byble responded after a series of tones that will alert on-duty ambulance workers of a call were broadcast on the frequency. Siren test scheduled for Thursday. A test of outdoor warning sirens in Lewis County will take place this Thursday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m. The monthly test will also promote public awareness of the four warning sirens located in Lewis County. Fire destroys home. Firefighters were called to Rock Run Thursday morning when a homeowner discovered a fire in the pantry area of the home shortly before 8:00 a.m. Firefighters from Lewis County, Black Oak, Garrison, Firebrick, and Camp Dix were dispatched to the home of Jeremy and Tami Earlywine. Crash claims life of Maysville man. Officials are investigating a fatal single-vehicle crash near the Lewis/ Mason county line Friday, May 24. Sheriff Johnny Bivens said an east-bound 2014 Kia Ion, operated by James Mitchell Mercer, 33, of Maysville, was traveling on KY 10 shortly before 8:00 p.m. on May 24. Bivens said the operator apparently failed to negotiate a curve and went off the left side of the roadway striking a culvert. The vehicle traveled through a residential lawn and overturned before coming to rest back on the roadway in an upright position. Mercer was pronounced dead at the scene by Deputy Coroner Amanda Gaydos. HOF nominations sought for 2025; Lykins steps down as chairperson. As the final ballots are being tallied for the Lewis County Schools High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2024, nominees are already being sought for the next round of HOF inductees. Also, as those ballots are being counted, the committee's first chairperson and an organizer of the group that has now been through the process four times to review and choose recipients for the honor, has announced he is stepping down from the position. "I have a new venture that I want to explore and hope to get started on that soon," said Jack Lykins.

June 11, 2024

Missing child found safe after extensive search. A five-year-old reported missing Saturday night was found

safe and sound after spending about seven hours in a wooded area near his home on Chalk Ridge. Lewis County 911 Dispatchers were notified by Dalton Brown that his son, Dwayne, was last seen near their home about 8:30 p.m. Saturday. Judge Executive George Sparks said first-responders from across Lewis County were quickly notified and responded to the area where an organized search was conducted. 12 candidates file for Vanceburg City Council. Twelve candidates have filed for the six available seats on Vanceburg City Council in the November General Election. The candidates for Vanceburg City Council are Nichole Cantu, Kathy McCann, Roger Jahn, John Grabill, Cary Cagle, Richard Walje, Kody Willis, Jacob Sartin, Douglas Lodge, Joni Pugh, Joan Morris, and Angie Patton. Council hears about homelessness. Primary discussion topics at a recent Vanceburg City Council meeting included homelessness, budgets, and ordinances. Can a first-responder locate your residence. If there were an emergency at your home, would first-responders be able to easily find it? Having your house number prominently displayed could save precious minutes in a medical emergency. And it's the law. Lewis County Fiscal Court adopted an ordinance in 2006 regulating the posting of addresses and setting a fine for non-compliance. With Lewis County EMS now in operation, many of those responding to your call for help may need some help themselves finding your home. Expect black bear sightings. Conservation officers and biologists with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) want to remind the public that sightings of black bears can occur outside of their primary range, especially in early summer.

June 18, 2024

Magistrates hear update on EMS. Meeting in regular session last week, magistrates heard an update on Lewis County EMS from Ambulance Board Chair Danny Palmer. "It's been a tough challenge but it's been a good challenge," Palmer told magistrates concerning the past year in getting Lewis County EMS from the planning stage to beginning operation. Palmer said Lewis County EMS had made 45 runs in its first 11 days of operations (as of June 10). One unit has been in operation and on call most of the time with a second ambulance occasionally placed into service. Board of Ed meets. The Lewis County Board of Education met in regular session, the final meeting for Superintendent Jamie Weddington who is retiring effective at the end of this month. Weddington had the opportunity to help recognize several students for their recent scholastic accomplishments. Hale enters guilty plea. An Ohio woman facing multiple charges for incidents on July 5, 2023, has pleaded guilty in Lewis Circuit Court and received a sentence of 20 years. The charges stemmed from the pursuit of a stolen vehicle from South Shore that ended in Lewis County. Alexis Denise Hale, 32, of

Columbus, Ohio, was originally charged with receiving stolen property over \$10,000, attempted murder of a police officer, four counts of first-degree wanton endangerment, three counts of first-degree wanton endangerment of a police officer, and operating on a suspended or revoked license. Under the plea agreement, the charge of receiving stolen property was dismissed and the charge of attempted murder of a police officer was amended to criminal attempt to commit assault. Hale pleaded guilty to the amended charge of criminal attempt to commit assault, seven counts of first-degree wanton endangerment, operating on a suspended/revoked operators license, and persistent felony offender. The agreement called for a total sentence of 20 years. Plant Board approves new electric provider. The Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg voted to move forward with AEP as the provider for three years after May 31, 2025, when the local utility's contract with Kentucky Power is finished. Justin Siemens from Acumen presented an update to the board on the RFQ process and the most recent pricing for energy and capacity charges. "After some good discussion and hard questions, Justin's recommendation to the board was to move forward with AEP as they have consistently been the lowest bid on energy," said Plant Board Superintendent Bill Tom Stone.

June 25, 2024

Splash Pad is popular attraction at Black Oak Park. The new Black Oak Recreation Park Splash Pad is (re-)open for the season. While the water-spraying and dumping attraction opened for the community on May 25 with a cook-out and plenty of local officials on-hand, the attraction suddenly came up dry on Thursday when a main waterline, located near a control panel at the facility, ruptured. The incident happened Thursday resulting in the attraction being closed for part of that day and all of Friday. "Thanks to the ingenuity and hard work of Chad Clark and Rodney Kennedy, we were able to reopen on Saturday morning," Judge Executive George Sparks said. Dry conditions warrant fire caution. With recent lower humidity and dry conditions Judge Executive George Sparks is urging area residents to refrain from any outdoor burning until conditions improve. "Our primary concern is for the safety of our citizens and first-responders, and the protection of property," Sparks said. Vehicle/pedestrian incident claims Vanceburg man's life. A Vanceburg man has died as the result of injuries sustained in a vehicle/pedestrian incident in Portsmouth, Ohio. A spokesman with the Portsmouth Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol said the post received a call of a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle on US 23 near Feurt Hill Road at 2:51 a.m. Sunday, July 16. The spokesman said Owens was walking in the south-bound lanes of US 23 in Portsmouth when he was struck by a southbound 2013 Toyota Corolla operated by

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