

Nicholas R. Caldwell, 25, of Garrison. Hall's journey has local stops. Joe Hall, a 41-year-old from Dayton, Ohio, began his journey in early May this year, embarking on an adventure across all 48 states. He plans to meet legislators in every capitol and discuss what they're doing for mental health for their constituents. Holiday hours set for courthouse/justice ctr. The Lewis County Courthouse and Lewis County Justice Center will have the following schedule for the Independence Day Holiday extended weekend. The courthouse and Justice Center will be closed Thursday and Friday (July 4 and 5).

**July 2, 2024**

Vanceburg's July Jubilee is this weekend. Vanceburg's July Jubilee Celebration is in its 33rd year with a full slate of events planned for the downtown area this weekend. "We have added more activities this year, but the biggest draw, as always, is the fireworks display downtown on the river," said Mayor Dane Blankenship. Rhonda Howard Massie dies. Fourth District Congressman Thomas Massie announced on Friday that his wife, Rhonda, died on Thursday. In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Massie stated, "Yesterday my high school sweetheart, the love of my life for over 35 years, the loving mother of our 4 children, the smartest kindest woman I ever knew, my beautiful and wise queen forever, Rhonda went to Heaven. Thank you for your prayers for our family in this difficult time." Athletic HOF names the inductees of '24. Six inductees headline the fourth class of the Lewis County Schools High School Athletic Hall of Fame, which will be honored between games of a basketball doubleheader during the 2024-25 season. Inductees include Tanner Barton, Tyler Clark, Joe Hampton, Andy Plummer, Marty Voiers, and the 1977 Lewis County High School baseball team. Kidwell named West Point candidate. Among the candidates reporting to

George Sparks said workers recently cleaned up that area and several others after receiving reports of the illegal activity, adding that information has been gathered to prosecute those responsible. KY 344 work planned this week. The Kentucky Department of Highways District 9 will temporarily restrict KY 344 to one-lane traffic at milepoint 13 in Lewis County to repair a culvert. Motorcycle operator airlifted. A motorcycle operator was airlifted Sunday evening after he collided with a deer on KY 344 south of Vanceburg. Sheriff Johnny Bivens said the incident happened about 6:00 p.m. Sunday in the area of 3656 KY 344.

988 roll-out program is nearly complete. Even though the roll-out of the three-digit national suicide hotline remains a work in progress across the nation, Kentucky's roll-out over the past two years has gone "pretty well." So says Steve Shannon, executive director of the Kentucky Association of Regional Programs for mental health. South Shore water improvements planned. Gov. Andy Beshear joined local officials last week from the cities of South Shore and Portsmouth, Ohio, to officially break ground on the construction of a permanent waterline that will bring clean drinking water to South Shore families and connect the two cities.

**July 16, 2024**

Amy Kennedy honored by fiscal court. Lewis County Fiscal Court met in regular session last week with retiring Buffalo Trace Area Development Director Amy Kennedy being honored for her service to the county and region. Kennedy briefly addressed magistrates and thanked them for their support, adding she was attending her last fiscal court meeting in her official capacity. Judge Executive George Sparks presented Kennedy with a proclamation listing many of her accomplishments during her 28 years with the agency and proclaiming July 31 as Amy Gilbert Kennedy Day in Lewis County. Wallingford man charged in incident. A



July 30, 2024

**Tammy Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD**  
**IT'S OFFICIAL . . . The ceremonial ribbon cutting for Lewis County EMS put the final touch on the creation of a county owned and operated ambulance service. Pictured, (L-R), are Emergency Management Director Dennis Brown, EMS Deputy Director Derrick Lykins, EMS Director Michael Byble, Board Treasurer Brenda Cunningham, Member/Secretary Tim Douglas, Ribbon Cutter Debbie Boling Patton, Board Chair Danny Palmer, Judge Executive George Sparks, Member/Secretary Ashley White, Member Leigh Ann Ruggles, and County Attorney Benjamin Harrison.**

EMS for July 25," said Judge Executive George Sparks in announcing plans for the event on Monday.

**July 23, 2024**

Long-running utility project is completed. Members of the Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg met in regular session with Superintendent Bill Tom Stone providing some long-awaited news concerning the Black Oak Package Plant Consolidation Project. "We will have the closing meeting for the Black Oak Package Plant Consolidation Project later this month," Stone said. "All the open issues have been fixed and we are just waiting for the paperwork to be filed." "The plant is operating as designed and metering is working as anticipated," Stone added. Venue changed for EMS opening. The location of the ceremonial ribbon cutting for Lewis County EMS been changed to Central Elementary School in Vanceburg. The event will be at Noon on Thursday, July 25, complete with a cook-out and a few words from local officials. Kennedy retires as Director of BTADD. After 28 years with the Buffalo Trace Area Development District, Executive Director Amy Kennedy is counting the days until the beginning of her retirement from the agency on August 1.

children at the same time without completing multiple forms, you will also be able to go back and update your information when needed. Some forms will need to be updated for each individual student via paper forms. Board of Ed meets in regular session. The Lewis County Board of Education met in the first regular session of the new fiscal year, and the first official session for Superintendent Dr. Michael Melton. Dr. Melton was named as the incoming superintendent of Lewis County Schools during the April meeting of the board of education. He replaces Jamie Weddington who retired after 28 years of service to the district, the final eight as superintendent. Board members approved several typical matters brought before them as they prepare for the upcoming school year. Newscaster helps tell David Iery story. "It went national a few weeks ago," David Iery said of the inspirational video story compiled by WKRC-TV's Duane Pohlman. "His name is David Iery and he is simply one of the finest human beings I've ever met," Pohlman posted on social media about his interviews with Iery. He called it a "remarkable story of how he turned a life-altering tragedy at home plate into a lifelong mission of preventing spinal cord injuries in baseball and beyond." "It was on over 100 channels across the United States," Iery said. "It's on YouTube now."

**August 6, 2024**

Carter County woman charged in fatal crash. An Olive Hill woman has been indicted on a capital murder charge in motor vehicle incident that resulted in the death of Philip Konopka and the injury of another last year. A Carter County Grand Jury returned indictments on July 12, including an indictment charging Kristina Thompson, 51, in the death of Konopka. The indictment alleges that on May 3, 2023, Thompson "committed the offense of murder by operating a motor vehicle under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to human life by being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs" and while driving intoxicated "causing the death of Philip Konopka." The murder charge is a capital offense. Potential poll workers may apply online. In observance of National Poll Worker Recruitment Day Thursday, Secretary of State Michael Adams announced the launch of a new poll worker recruitment portal on his website. The portal's direct link, <https://web.sos.ky.gov/countyclerk49/pollworker.aspx>, allows volunteers to sign up for their home county. Once submitted online, the portal will then send the applicant's information directly to the county clerk. Train collides with pick-up at crossing. Vanceburg Police officers are investigating an incident involving a pick-up and train Friday evening. A police department spokesman said a 2014 Chevrolet Silverado pick-up, operated by Joshua Stamper, 44, of Garrison, was traveling north on Camp Lane across CSX railroad tracks as a westbound train was approaching the crossing. The spokesman said the diesel locomotive collided with the rear of the pick-up causing the pick-up to spin around and come to rest with the rear of the pick-up in the ditch on the northwest corner of the crossing and front wheels on the roadway. SBA disaster assis-

stance available. Low-interest disaster loans from the US Small Business Administration (SBA) are available to businesses and residents in Kentucky following the announcement of a Presidential disaster declaration due to severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, landslides and mudslides that occurred May 21-27, 2024. First Federally Qualified Health Clinic Residency Program opens. Kentucky's first residency program operated by a Federally Qualified Health Center opened July 1 in Northeast Kentucky, with hopes that the resident doctors will set up practice in rural Kentucky after they complete their training. The PrimaryPlus Family Medicine Residency Program will be headquartered in Maysville. Mitsubishi to expand. Gov. Andy Beshear announced that Mitsubishi Electric US (MEUS) will repurpose an existing manufacturing facility in Maysville to produce highly efficient heat pump compressors, which will bring 122 new full-time jobs with a \$143.5 million investment. The Cabinet for Economic Development believes this is the largest project in Mason County in 20 years.

**August 13, 2024**

Lewis County joins State Fair exhibition. Lewis County will be participating in the Kentucky State Fair this year as the annual event celebrates its 120th edition. "It's an honor to have Lewis County represented at the State Fair," said Judge Executive George Sparks. Conservation District earns award. The Lewis County Conservation District was honored recently during the Annual Convention of the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts in Louisville. The District was presented the Outstanding Conservation District of the Year for 2023 by State Forester Director Brandon Howard with the Kentucky Division of Forestry. Howard said the award honors the conservation district that has contributed the most to support conservation management and to encourage forestry management and forest stewardship activities and reflects activities completed during the 2023 calendar year. Inmate captured after escape attempt/chase. An inmate being transported from her Lewis County court appearance back to the Mason County Detention Center was able to exit the transport vehicle near the intersection of Clarksburg Road and the AA Highway last week. Sheriff Johnny Bivens said the incident happened shortly after 11:00 a.m. Tuesday following her appearance in district court. He said the escapee entered an auto parked in the area and fled west on the AA Highway in the stolen vehicle. Among the new charges against Sandra Smith, 37, of Vanceburg are first-degree escape, third-degree assault on an officer transporting inmates, auto theft, speeding, and first-degree fleeing or evading police. Rex Elam retires from Farm Bureau. After 51 years of service to Kentucky Farm Bureau, Rex Elam is retiring from the company. Judge Executive George Sparks presented Elam with a proclamation honoring his years of service during the insurance company's annual meeting/picnic. Elam began his career in 1973 as a Kentucky Farm Bureau agent in Floyd County and came to Lewis County as an Agency Manager in 1979.

**August 20, 2024**

Fiscal court puts cannabis question on the ballot. Lewis County Fiscal Court met in regular session last week with magistrates approving a resolution to allow voters to determine whether or not they are in favor of the sale of medicinal cannabis and related businesses in the county. The question will be placed on the ballot for the November general election. Council takes step to OK medicinal cannabis sales. Members of Vanceburg City Council heard the first reading of an ordinance that would allow business establishments in the city to sell medicinal cannabis, if approved on the second reading. Council members had the options of allowing it by ordinance; voting to keep it out by ordinance; or submitting it to the voters of the city via resolution. Plant Board hears project update. Members of the Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg met in regular session with members hearing good news on a long-running project for the local utility company. "We should be making our final payments on the Black Oak Package Plant Consolidation Project later this month," said Plant Board Superintendent Bill Tom Stone.

**August 27, 2024**

Board of Ed prepares for start of school. The Lewis County Board of Education met in regular session with members hearing a construction update on projects in the district, including the new Career and Technical Center which is nearing completion. Members also heard an instructional update from Sara Smith. Board members heard a review on Kentucky Open Records and Open Meeting Acts. Candidate for council arrested. A candidate for Vanceburg City Council, and former candidate for mayor of Vanceburg, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal trespassing following an incident in council chambers prior to a scheduled meeting. Vanceburg Police Chief Joe Paul Gilbert made the arrest as the regular meeting of Vanceburg City Council was about to get underway on August 5 at the city building housing council chambers on Second Street in Vanceburg. John R. Grabill, 62, of Vanceburg, was arrested and booked into the Mason County Detention Center on one charge of third-degree criminal trespass, a violation. Probable scam letter sent to area residents. The Vanceburg Police Department is warning of a questionable fundraising letter recently mailed to several Vanceburg residents. Assistant Chief Joe Billman said the letter claims to be from the National Police Association in Stafford, Texas, and asks for donations to add the recipient's name "along with the names of other Vanceburg residents to the Quality of Life Policing Petition that will be presented to Vanceburg City Council Members." Diamond Dinner is September 7. The annual David Iery Foundation Diamond Dinner is set for Saturday, September 7, at the Clarion North in Lexington. A card show will be from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. prior to the dinner with Jose Rijo and Herm Wingham signing from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Players participating in the card show will be at the banquet beginning at 5:00 p.m. with other players on-hand available to sign autographs for fans.

**To be continued next week.**



July 2, 2024

**First Lt. Skinner, left, representing West Point Academy, joins the Kidwell family as Jackson Kidwell prepares to enter the training facility in New York. Pictured with Jackson, second from left, are Chad, Joanne, and Ellis.**

West Point Military Academy this week is Lewis County's Jackson Kidwell, one of over 12,300 highly qualified applicants for the coveted appointments to the academy's Class of 2028. "Jackson Kidwell, one of Lewis County's best and brightest, will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point," said Rep. Thomas Massie in making the announcement. Jackson is the son of Joanne and Chad Kidwell. His younger brother is Ellis.

Wallingford man has been charged with the attempted murder of a police officer following an incident Saturday morning at Fleming County Hospital. Fleming County Sheriff Tim Smith says he charged Billy Hall, 60, of Wilson Run Road, Wallingford, following the incident. Lions Club Fair in its 67th year. The Tollesboro Lions Club's Fair is underway. This year's Fair promises to be an event-filled time, with this year's Fair extending for 11 days and in-

Kennedy started with the agency in October 1996 as a transportation planner and after advancing to assistant economic director, and then programs director in 2003, was named to replace Steve Miller as executive director on June 1, 2008. Fire destroys Garrison home. Firefighters were called to Garrison Lane in Garrison Sunday morning when the home of Jerry and Michelle Noble was reported on fire. Firefighters from Garrison, Black Oak, Lewis County and Firebrick volunteer fire departments responded to the scene along with deputies from the Lewis County Sheriff's Department. A fire department spokesman said the home was a total loss and the family lost all their belongings. Auto inspection fees increase. As the result of a change in Kentucky law, vehicle inspection fees have increased from \$5 to \$15. Kentucky drivers who need vehicle inspections will now pay more for the service, which is required for vehicles purchased outside of the state.

**July 30, 2024**

Lykins to preserve history of local veterans. Jack Lykins is working on the first steps of a plan he is calling Operation Hero Preservation, where he will work to document and record the histories of local veterans. Returning students may register online. Lewis County Schools returning students can register online for the 2024-2025 school year. This will replace most of the beginning of the year folder that each school sends home. You will be able to enroll all



July 23, 2024

**Tollesboro Lions Club Ashton Powers was named Queen of the Tollesboro Lions Club Fair during festivities last week at the fairgrounds.**

**July 9, 2024**

Illegal dumping targeted as reports increase. County workers have been busy with increased reports of illegal dumping in the county, including Woodland Cemetery near Vanceburg and Thorpe Ridge Road. Judge Executive

cluding three weekends! This year's Fair is the the 67th Annual Tollesboro Lions Club Fair. Ceremonial EMS opening set. "With our ambulances in operation and more than 190 runs since the first call on May 31, we've set the official opening of Lewis County