



THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

75¢ Volume 102 The Only Newspaper Published in Lewis County Vanceburg, Kentucky Phone 606-796-2331 TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 NUMBER 2025-11



Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

FEMA and Kentucky Emergency Management officials visit with local officials to assess damage from February flooding in Lewis County. The officials reviewed damage and repairs being made to the roadways as a result of severe weather.

Magistrates approve courthouse roof fix

By Dennis K. Brown

Lewis County Fiscal Court met in regular session last week with magistrates approving a proposal to make repairs to the courthouse roof at a cost of about \$17,700. Orus Weaver will do the work which will include improvements for drainage.

opened the door for consideration of other similar roadways.

He said both are presently listed as private roadways but have received county maintenance in the past.

“Personally, I would like to see these roads,” said Magistrate Johnny Osborne.

Magistrates approved the appointments of George Plummer, Jill O’Cull, and Jennifer Meadows to the county’s ethics board for four year terms and approved hiring Jeff Thoroughman in the county’s workforce department.

Underwood said there are residences served by both roadways which would benefit by county maintenance. He requested a “common sense” approach in considering the roadways for adoption.

He adds that the preception is that Waring Cemetery Road is already a county roadway.

Magistrates discussed the possible adoption of Waring Cemetery Road and Cedar Lane into the county road system. No immediate decision was made on the requests by Magistrate Woody Underwood.

“My input on this is that the adoption of Lexi Lane into the county road system opened no such doors and changed nothing, in my mind, because the law is, and always has been, that you can deviate from the requirements of adoption of a county road if there is good cause shown,” said County At-Lane into the system

Underwood said the roadways do not meet the requirements for adoption into the county road system but added he felt the recent adoption of Lexi Lane into the system

Please see page 8

Plant Board preparing for new electric supplier

By Dennis K. Brown

Members of the Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg met in regular session last week and learned that work is already underway in preparation for a new supplier of electricity for the local utility company.

“We will be working with AEP Energy Partners over the next few months to finalize the transition over from Kentucky Power,” said Plant Board Superintendent Bill Tom Stone.

“Also, the new PJM rates are up slightly, but our peak demand was down slightly last year. The overall PJM transmission charges look like they will be about the same as last year.

PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. operates the electric transmission system or “grid” for all or part of 13 states and the District of Columbia, including Kentucky.

“I know that I sound like a broken record but over the past 15 years, this transmission charge has gone from about 10% of our total bill for electricity to around 35%,” Stone said.

“This rate has increased four-and-a-half times while other PJM zones have only increased one-and-a-half times,” Stone

added. “We continue to monitor rates to see if any adjustments need to take place as we go into this new contract.”

Stone said the preliminary application for the new water well project has been submitted for Appalachian Regional Commission funding.

“We are now waiting for the invitation for a formal application,” he said.

“In addition, we have applied for grant funds to cover the cost of the matching portion of the ARC grant. We are still working on this funding and hope to hear more by the end of the spring.”

Stone explained that some maintenance work by the electric supplier will result in brief power interruptions for the local system and utility workers are preparing a substation to be brought back into service.

“In September AEP will be doing some maintenance to the Millbrook Station which will need to be shut down for around three weeks for repair,” he said.

“During this time, we will be served from the Argentum Station. We will have a short interruption in service to switch over providers,” Stone said. “During this interruption, we will be bring-

ing back online the South Portsmouth substation. Our electric department is working to have the substation ready by the September timeframe.”

Stone said the Kentucky League of City’s legal department is reviewing the local utility’s personnel policies and he hopes to have the revisions by the end of April for review.

“Once we have had a chance to review the changes that the League suggests, we will then vote to approve the new policy and prepare a new employee handbook,” he said.

Stone told board members that Columbia Gas Transmission transport costs will increase from \$1.36 to \$3.07 per MCF (thousand cubic feet) starting in April.

“This rate is under review at the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) but will go into effect in April,” Stone said. “The final rate will be somewhere between the current and proposed rate more than likely, but until it is finalized, we will pay \$3.07 per MCF.”

Stone said the tree-trimming company that cleared trees from the right-of-way has completed the planned work and added Premier Power

Maintenance continues to work on a preventive maintenance plan for substations.

Richard Howerton of Howerton Engineering presented a brief overview of his firm and the type of work they are involved in throughout the area.

VPD officer completes academy

By Dennis K. Brown

Gov. Andy Beshear announced Thursday that 39 law enforcement officers from agencies across the commonwealth have graduated from the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training’s (DOCJT) basic training academy.

These law enforcement officers now return home to serve and protect Kentucky and create safer communities. Among those officers is Logan Vonderbrink with the Vanceburg Police Department.

“Congratulations for achieving the first step in your law enforcement career and obtaining the critical training necessary to perform your duties safely and effectively,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “Your impact on the security and wellbeing of Kentucky families is immeasurable, and First Lady Brittainy Beshear and I are grateful



HERALD

Logan Vonderbrink

for what you do to protect us all.”

DOCJT is committed to providing officers with best practices, the latest technology training and legal information to protect the diverse communities they serve. The graduates of Class 555 received more than 800 hours of recruit-level instruction over 20 weeks.

Major training areas included patrol procedures, physical training, vehicle

operations, defensive tactics, criminal law, traffic and DUI, firearms, criminal investigations, cultural awareness, bias-related crimes and tactical responses to crisis situations.

Since December 2019, the academy has graduated 1,691 officers from the basic training academy. These 39 graduating law enforcement officers will begin working with the commonwealth’s 8,000 other officers to create a commonwealth that is safer for all Kentuckians now and into the future.

“I am proud of your commitment to learning the skills and knowledge presented during your time at the basic training academy,” DOCJT Commissioner Mike Bosse said. “I wish you success in your careers as you implement the training you’ve received to enhance public safety in your communities.”

Traffic checkpoints aimed at safety

By Dennis K. Brown

Sheriff Johnny Bivens has announced the Lewis County Sheriff’s Department will be conducting periodic traffic safety checkpoints throughout the county to check motorists for compliance with motor vehicle laws including driving under the influence statutes.

The Lewis County Sheriff’s Department utilizes traffic safety checkpoints to promote safety for motorists on our roadways and to provide a deterrent for those who violate the laws.

Bivens says the intent of a traffic safety checkpoint is to provide a high visibility, public safety

service, focusing on vehicular equipment deficiencies, confirming appropriate registration and insurance of vehicles, and the valid licensing of drivers.

He added that violations of law and other public safety issues will be addressed if found during a check.

Conducting the safety checkpoints will allow the Lewis County Sheriff’s Office the opportunity to periodically concentrate its efforts in checking for violations of law that will ultimately increase the safety of the citizens and motorists.

Drivers encountering a traffic safety checkpoint

are asked to have their driver’s license, vehicle registration receipt and proof of insurance readily available.

Drivers with this information in hand and with no violations of law can reasonably expect to be delayed for no more than a few minutes, Bivens said.

“Deputies will be checking for impaired drivers, illegal narcotics, children not properly restrained in child safety seats, insurance and registration violations, and other infractions of the law,” said Bivens.

He added deputies will continue to maintain a Please see page 8



Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

A little to the left . . . Winston Reeder with Live Wire Printing applies new graphics to the Lewis County Emergency Management vehicle.

75¢

Index

Inserts

Obituaries

©2025 LEWIS COUNTY HERALD PUBLISHING CO., INC.



Classifieds	7
Court News	4
Extension News	2
Obituaries	5
Sports	2

Save-A-Lot

Tony Fite
 Laura Bond
 Larry Feazell
 Louella Ash
 Brian Howe
 Cleo Smith

