

Lewis County Farm Bureau annual meeting

By Kristi Arthurs

Lewis County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting and picnic Sunday, August 3, at the Ruggles Campground and Retreat Center. Approximately 80 members and guests enjoyed the potluck meal after prayer by Todd Evans.

President Paul Swearingen called the meeting back to order. Phillip Stamm made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and the treasurer’s report. Frankie Arthurs seconded, motion passed.

Paul Swearingen introduced Shane Wiseman, First Vice President of Kentucky Farm Bureau, who thanked the county for inviting him and congratulated the Board on doing a good job. Paul then introduced Alex Barnett, board member with Kentucky Farm Bureau. He thanked the county fro invit-

ing him and also commended the board for their work for the county.

Paul Swearingen then introduced Mike Tobin, Area Program Director, who added his thanks for being invited and also thanked the board of directors and the office staff for all the work they do for Lewis County Farm Bureau.

Woman’s Chair Jennifer Meadows then presented the scholarship winners. Those receiving the \$1,000 annual scholarships are: Levi Ervin, Kiyanna Evans, and Colson Duff. Winners of the \$500 Ag scholarships are: Isaac Bocook, Creighton Arnold, Dawson Polley, and Maddison Erwin.

Agency Manager Chris Elam presented the slate of officers for the coming year as selected by the nominating committee. They are: President, Jennifer Mead-

ows; Vice President, Phillip Stamm; Secretary/Treasurer, Kristi Arthurs; Generation Bridge, Tyler Clark. Directors include: Karen Roe, Dwight Malone, Frankie Arthurs, Rex Elam, Luther Walker Jr., Jim Meadows, Tim Lykins, Paul Swearingen, and Kathy Dillow. A motion was made by Linda Breeze, seconded by Tina Curtis, to accept the nominees as presented. Motion passed.

A drawing was held for prizes and gift bags and caps were available as the meeting came to a close. Rex Elam made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Frankie Arthurs. Motion passed.

Lewis County Farm Bureau would like to congratulate the scholarship winners and wish them well as they begin on their journey to higher education.



Outgoing President Paul Bruce Swearingen and newly elected President Jennifer Meadows.



Members and guests at the annual meeting at Ruggles Campground and Retreat Center.

Class of 1958 plans reunion



Six members of the THS Class of 1958 met recently to plan the 67th Class Reunion: Doris Evans Thoroughman, Alan Roe, Marjorie Kennedy, Madeline Hord Logan, Connie Craycraft Bondelid, and Bob Bane.

By Doris Thoroughman

A meeting of the 1958 graduating class of Tollesboro High School was held recently at Caproni’s Restaurant in Maysville with six members in attendance. Although small in number a good time was had by those just being together once again.

Those attending were Doris Evans Thoroughman, Alan Roe, Marjorie Kennedy, Madeline Hord Logan, Connie Craycraft Bondelid, and Bob Bane. Guests attending were Diana Roe, Alan Bane, and Jane Bane.

On the second Saturday in October we will be celebrating our 67th Class Reunion. Please plan to attend.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in October.

THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

“That’s Where You’ll Find It!”

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LEWIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Will meet the third Saturday of each month at Noon at the Historical Society building on Market Street, Vanceburg.

WIC WANTS YOU! - WIC offers health care and free healthy foods for eligible women and children under age 5. Call the Lewis County Health Department to find out if you qualify. Ex. of WIC Program Income Guidelines: A family of 4 can make up to \$57,720 annually. Call today 606-796-2632.

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Legislative Update

State Representative Patrick Flannery



Session Results: Appropriations and Revenue, part two

The House Appropriations and Revenue Committee looks at bills that deal with how the state collects and spends money, including taxes and the budget. The decisions they make affect nearly every part of life in Kentucky—schools, roads, public safety, and countless other state programs and agencies, as well as local investments in roads, water projects, economic development and community investments.

During the 2025 Regular Session, committee members approved legislation aimed at continuing in our philosophy of responsible budgeting while also meeting the needs of people across the state. Some bills focus on short-term issues, like funding important programs right away, while others lay the groundwork for the future by improving how the state raises and uses money – including HB 1, which will again cut the individual income tax on January 1, 2026. Next year’s cut will take the rate to 3.5%, almost half of what it was when we became the majority in 2016.

In addition, the committee also works to balance saving taxpayer dollars with making smart investments that help Kentucky communities flourish because, ultimately, that growth is what fuels future investments. The summaries below provide an idea of what some of the bills that cleared the committee to become law this session will do:

Improving Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, Rep. Jason Petrie – HJR 30 authorizes the release of funds appropriated in 2024 for the Kentucky Water or Wastewater Assistance for Troubled or Economically Restrained Systems Fund.

Promoting Agricultural Economic Development, Rep. Jason Petrie – HJR 31 authorizes the release of \$5 million allocated in 2024 to the Department of Agriculture to support economic development initiatives within the agriculture industry.

Investing in School Facilities, Rep. Jason Petrie – HJR 32 authorizes the release of more than \$130 million in funding from the School Facility Assistance Fund.

Investing in KCTCS, Rep. Jason Petrie – HJR 34 authorizes the release of capital construction funds allocated

in 2024 to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Investing in Local Roads and Infrastructure, Rep. Jason Petrie – HJR 46 authorizes the release of \$23.9 million in funds appropriated in 2024 for local road projects.

Investing in Infrastructure at Kentucky State University, Rep. Jason Petrie – HJR 53 authorizes the release of \$5 million in funding allocated in 2024 for the design of a health sciences building on the campus of Kentucky State University. The measure also requires KSU to submit a comprehensive business plan for the project to the legislature by November 1, 2025.

Investing in the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Rep. Jason Petrie – HJR 54 authorizes the release of capital construction funding allocated in 2024 for Phase II of construction improvements at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

Addressing Student Mental Health and Wellness, Sen. Rick Girdler – SB 19 allows Kentucky students to quietly reflect, pray, or meditate at the start of each school day. It also outlines a framework for local school boards to approve off-campus moral instruction, with transparency and safety requirements.

Addressing the Housing Shortage and Improving Government Efficiency, Sen. Robby Mills – SB 25 expands eligibility for local governments to issue industrial revenue bonds to include multi-family housing developments of 48 or more units. The measure also creates the Medicaid Oversight Advisory Board, a legislative panel comprised of stakeholders and aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the taxpayer-funded health insurance program for the poor and those with ongoing con-

ditions. In addition, the bill offers further clarification of the organization and responsibilities of the Office of the Ombudsman overseeing CHFS.

Strengthening Agricultural Economic Development, Sen. Jason Howell – SB 28 requires executive agencies to communicate with co-equal branches of government, specifically the Department of Agriculture, to increase transparency and benefit economic development efforts.

Expanding Adventure Tourism, Sen. Brandon Storm – SB 63 allows local governments to enact ordinances permitting and regulating street-legal special purpose vehicles on highways within their jurisdictional boundaries. This could include eligible ATVs, UTVs, and other special purpose vehicles.

Advancing Nuclear Energy, Sen. Danny Carroll – SB 179 establishes a nuclear energy grant program within the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority.

Ensuring Enforcement of Child Support, Sen. Jason Howell – SB 244 provides for the transition of child support enforcement and administrative hearings from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to the Attorney General’s Office.

Improving Access to Pharmacy Providers, Sen. Craig Richardson – SJR 26 directs the Department for Medicaid Services to provide the legislature with a report regarding pharmacist payment parity.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Patrick.Flannery@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature’s website at legislature.ky.gov.



Richard Walje

Sales Associate

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Lewis County School District

251 Lions Lane

Vanceburg, KY 41179

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Sections 1112(e)(2)(A)-(B) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the following regarding testing transparency.

(2) TESTING TRANSPARENCY.—

(A) IN GENERAL. – At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the local educational agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding any State or local educational agency policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by section 1111(b)(2) and by the State or local educational agency, which shall include a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable.

(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. – Subject to subparagraph (C), each local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall make widely available through public means (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the local educational agency’s website and, where practicable, on the website of each school served by the local educational agency) for each grade served by the local educational agency, information on each assessment required by the State to comply with section 1111, other assessments required by the State, and where such information is available and feasible to report, assessments required districtwide by the local educational agency, including—

- (i) the subject matter assessed;
- (ii) the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;
- (iii) the source of the requirement for the assessment; and
- (iv) where such information is available—(I) the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment, and the schedule for the assessment; and (II) the time and format for disseminating results.

Information about these requirements can be found on the Kentucky Department of Education’s Assessments webpage (<https://education.ky.gov/AA/Assessments/Pages/default.aspx>). For further questions or to obtain a hard copy of this material please direct your inquiry to [name and contact information of the District Assessment Coordinator or other preferred contact person].

Sincerely,

Timothy Underwood - Director of Federal Programs