

# Board of Ed preps for school year

By Dennis K. Brown

The Lewis County Board of Education met in regular session last week with a full agenda of reports and action items as they prepare for the new school year.

Sara Smith provided the board with an instructional update as part of the staff report.

Board members approved the annual athletic fields turf management contract with Quicksand Farms, LLC, and amended terms of athletic training services with Southern Ohio Medical Center. A contract with the Vanceburg Police Department for School Resource Officers and School Safety Officers was also approved for the 2025-26 school year.

The board approved a number of student support agreements, including a drug dog visit for the high school and middle school campuses, a meal service agreement with the Child Care Food Program, and a school health contract with the Lewis County Health Department. Food service procurement, milk and bread contracts, and federal program assurances

were also approved.

Members also authorized the purchase of Vasco Translator communication devices to comply with SB 181, and adopted the district's Trauma, Safety, and Crisis Plan. The superintendent was given authority to negotiate contracts related to information technology system review.

Superintendent Jeff Aulick presented the monthly personnel report listing new certified hires, transfers, and resignations across district schools.

New teachers joining the district include Josef Blankenship at Lewis County Middle School, Eric Lawson at Laurel Elementary, Rebecca Arnold and Kenny Scott at Lewis County High School, Emily Howard at Central Elementary, Abby Vansickle at Garrison Elementary, and Tony Johnson at Laurel Elementary. The board also approved classified hires including mechanics, instructional assistants, a secretary, a cook, and a districtwide technology coordinator. Transfers and resignations were accepted as noted in the report.

First readings were approved for several revised policies, and the board adopted 2025-26 tax rates for motor vehicles, watercraft, real estate, and personal property. The unaudited 2024-25 annual financial report and balance sheet were presented, along with allocations and carryover funds for the new school year.

Board members approved school fundraisers, including a Back-to-School Dance, a Penny War, and a School Store at Garrison Elementary. Field trips were approved for the Lewis County Middle School cheer team, including travel to Columbus, Ohio, and a national event at Disney World in January.

The board entered executive session for potential litigation as permitted under state law with no action taken when returning to open session.

The board approved the treasurer's report and payment of bills before adjourning.

The next regular meeting of the Lewis County Board of Education will be September 8.

## FISCAL COURT

Cont. from page 1

Jamin Harrison will prepare a proposed agreement for the September meeting regarding the use of inflatable at the Black Oak recreation park.

Magistrates authorized Judge Executive George Sparks to begin the process of assuming ownership of the Garrison Boat Dock area from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Magistrate Mark Horsley expressed concerns about liability, ongoing maintenance costs, and the need for soil testing for possible

contaminants. County Clerk Leslie Collier said county ownership could make the property eligible for improvement grants. The motion passed unanimously.

In other business, Harrison reported that a resident in the vicinity of Concord Trinity Road requested County Road 1363 be made part of Concord Trinity Road. No residences are located on that section, and the change would be in name only. The matter will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Members entered a brief closed session for discussion of possible acquisition of property. Upon returning to open session, they authorized Harrison to contact the Lewis County Board of Education regarding possible acquisition of a parcel of property.

During monthly reports, EMS Director Michael Byble commended Sheriff Johnny Bivens for assisting on a recent EMS call by performing CPR on a patient before ambulance crews arrived.



### Gateway & Buffalo Trace

SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

# 2026

# 2025



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# Pop-up driver's licensing event

By Dennis K. Brown

A pop-up driver's licensing event is scheduled in Lewis County Tuesday, September 9.

Here's what you need to know:

Driver's licenses are no longer issued from circuit court clerk offices in Kentucky. The state's transportation cabinet maintains the issuance of licensing at various regional offices now.

Other than at pop-up locations, residents must travel to regional offices or mail in documents – in certain circumstances – to renew and obtain their credentials.

Judge Executive George Sparks says the pop-up event will be held on the third floor of the Lewis County Courthouse on Second Street in Vanceburg between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Registration for this event will open on August 26 at 8:00 a.m. at <https://drive.ky.gov>

Residents of the county may upgrade to a REAL ID license, request an eight-year license if you are due to renew, update your name or address, and renew a CDL credential.

Important information to know before your visit:

- Appointments are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and must be made online. Appointment holders will be sent a confirmation email and/or text

message immediately. Additionally, appointment holders will receive a reminder email/text message four days prior to the event. If an appointment-holder cannot make an appointment, please cancel it. This will open the appointment up for others.

- Pop-up staff will contact all appointment holders through email or phone ahead of each event. It is important that appointment holders respond to staff when they receive calls or emails. Staff will confirm appointments, answer any questions, and ensure each customer has the proper documents to receive service.

- While Pop-up events are by appointment only, staff may be able to take a limited number of walk-ins at each event; however, there is no guarantee. Residents who choose to walk in at a pop-up event should communicate with staff who will indicate the possibility and/or wait time for service.

- Services requiring testing are unavailable at pop-up events and should be handled at a regional office or through the Kentucky State Police.

- The following forms of payment will be accepted: debit/credit cards, check, and money orders. The program is not accepting cash payments.

- Vision Screening: A vi-

sion screening is required to renew a Kentucky driver's license. Drivers may ask their vision specialist or KYTC-credentialed optometrist, physician, or advanced practice registered nurse for a vision screening. Drivers who pass will receive a Driver Vision Testing Certification Form from their provider to bring when renewing their license. The vision screening and Driver Vision Testing Form must be completed within 12 months of a driver's license renewal visit at a regional office.

Visit <https://drive.ky.gov> for more information and to make an appointment.

Skip a trip to a regional office or pop-up event and renew online or by mail. Most Kentucky credential needs may be completed from the comfort of your home.

For any questions regarding the pop-ups, email Toni Benedict at [toni.benedict@ky.gov](mailto:toni.benedict@ky.gov).



## Shaved Ice

# FUNDRAISER

ALL SALES, DONATIONS, AND TIPS WILL GO TO AMANDA, KATELYN AND HUNTER FOR ANY EXPENSES OR BILLS NEEDED WHILE THEY ARE AWAITING KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS



**SATURDAY, AUG 23 | NOON - 5PM**

## LEWIS COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

IN VANCEBURG BETWEEN MCDONALDS AND THE DOLLAR GENERAL STORE!

## LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeff Aulick, Superintendent

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Director of Pre-School  
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Safe School Coordinator

# SB 181 Communication Notification

To promote a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff, Lewis County Schools utilizes cameras in most public areas such as classrooms, hallways, offices, playgrounds, athletic fields, buses, and board owned vehicles.

Kentucky Law, SB 181, requires district employees and volunteers to use only approved, traceable systems when communicating electronically with students. Currently the Lewis County Board of Education has approved the following traceable platforms to comply with the law (listed below).

Any electronic communication outside of these platforms without securing the proper parental consent is determined as an "unauthorized use of communication" and will require the district to investigate and report every allegation.

Current approved platforms:

- Blackboard and/or Starfish (for college students)
- Clever
- District Email
- Google Classroom
- Go Guardian
- OneCall
- ParentSquare
- SportsYou

The full Policies and Procedures can be found at <https://policy.ksba.org/Search.aspx?distid=69>

Please "click" SEARCH MANUAL in the upper right corner and look in the drop down menu. You are looking for Policy 8.2324 and Procedure 8.2324 AP.2

Public Notice 33,34c

# KY 344 road closure

By Dennis K. Brown

In a project that got underway Monday, highway crews have temporarily closed KY 344 at mile-point 10.1 between Silver Lick Hollow and Black Lick Branch to replace a culvert underneath the highway.

Traffic should detour using KY 57, KY 9, or KY 59.

The road will remain completely closed until Wednesday, August 20, at 9:00 p.m.

The roadway was also

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Cont. from page 1

The district is posting on the district webpage, Facebook page, and in THE HERALD this year's routes and start times for each.

Everyone please be safe and have a great start to your school year.

closed last week to replace a nearby culvert.

Visit [GoKY.ky.gov](https://go.ky.gov) online for Kentucky travel and traffic information, or use the Waze mobile application.

Follow Transportation Cabinet operations in northeast Kentucky on social media @KYTCDistrict 9.

## PLANT BOARD

Cont. from page 1

Vince Finley of AEP Energy Partners to discuss the possibility of behind-the-meter storage to reduce peak demand. Stone said the technology's cost and timing challenges will need to be studied further.

Auditors were on-site last week performing the utility's annual audit, with a final report expected by October or November.