



# THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

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Randy Jamison/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD  
Clayton "Buddy" Lykins Jr. served as the Grand Marshal of Vanceburg's Christmas Parade on Saturday. Lykins was chauffeured along the route by Mayor Joe Billman (at the wheel).

## Board of Ed meets in regular session

### Herald Report

The Lewis County Board of Education met in regular session outlining academic progress goals, approving guidance for the superintendent search process, and taking action on safety and district financing matters.

Board members reviewed organizational mission statements emphasizing grade-level achievement, annual academic growth, and college and career readiness for graduating students.

Three staff reports followed, including updates on attendance from Lori O'Keefe, instruction from Sara Smith, and technology from Quentin Allen.

The board approved a KSBA presentation given by Tim Abrams outlining the superintendent search process and approved the contract for Jeff Aulick to serve as Acting/Interim Superintendent, effective January 1, 2026.

Several safety certifications were granted for the district's full-time emergency certification applications, including Laurel Elementary (two), Central Elementary (one), and the High School (one) as part of the district LEAD report.

Transportation and operational agreements were approved with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Agreement for district services.

Additional district guidance documents approved included the MTSS District Guidance Document and MTSS District Guidance Plan, along with district compliance plans for Policy 08.1122 and district support guidelines for MTSS, MTSS bus financing, and nutrition, wellness, and physical activity reporting.

A People's Bank Foundation Grant for \$10,000 was approved as was additional district financing through KISTA Bus Financing and KISTA Bus Agreement, along with KISTA bus financing, KISTA financing for district growth, and a Gear Up Success Coach Salary Schedule.

The district also advanced the application process and guidance for

the 21st Century Grant and SPARK Transition Grant.

Personnel actions approved in Superintendent Jeff Aulick's Personnel Report included the hiring of Monica Jefferson, Teacher at Tollesboro Elementary effective November 10, 2025; the retirement of Sherri Lewis, Teacher at Middle School effective December 1, 2025; and classified staffing hires including Marsha Kielman, Cook at Tollesboro Elementary effective October 27, 2025; Shauna Duff, Secretary at High School effective November 11, 2025; and Natasha Bloomfield, Secretary at Central Elementary effective December 1, 2025.

Resignations were approved for Ann Stone, Bookkeeper at High School effective October 25, 2025; Brittany Stone, FRC Coordinator at Garrison and Laurel Elementary effective November 17, 2025; Natasha Bloomfield, Secretary at Central Elementary effective December 1, 2025; and Natasha Bloomfield, Secretary at Central Elementary effective December 1, 2025.

mentary effective June 1, 2026.

Staff transfer was approved for Karrah Bryan, Bookkeeper at High School effective October 29, 2025.

A Family Medical Leave of absence was approved for an employee at Tollesboro Elementary from December 26, 2025 through February 20, 2026.

Leighallison Allen was Please see page 8

## Gayheart is candidate for magistrate

### By Eddie Gayheart

I was born and raised right here in Lewis County.

My earliest memories come from these back roads, school halls, ballfields, and the people who make this place feel like home. This county shaped me through hard work, strong families, and neighbors who look out for each other.

I have taken a meaningful step for myself and my community: I officially filed to run for Magistrate for District 3.

I've never seen myself as a politician. I've spent my life as part of the

## Crackdown continues on telephone robocalls

### By Tom Latek Kentucky Today

An investigation into four of the country's largest voice providers to further crack down on the robocalls that pester Kentucky families, said Attorney General Russell Coleman on Friday.

As part of an ongoing investigation, the bipartisan Anti-Robocall Multi-state Litigation Task Force, which is led by state attorneys general from across the country, has directed Inteliquent, Bandwidth, Lumen, and Peerless to stop transmitting suspected illegal robocalls across their networks.

"Kentuckians are fed up with the never-ending robocalls that steal their time and try to scam them out of money," Coleman said. "Working with AGs on both sides of the aisle, we're taking on this growing threat to protect Kentucky families from this lawless conduct."

In August, Coleman sent warning letters to 37 smaller voice providers that were allowing suspected illegal robocalls onto the US telephone network. This next phase targets companies with far larger footprints in the

US telecom ecosystem. The four companies are continuing to transmit hundreds of thousands - and in some cases, millions - of suspected illegal robocalls.

As larger providers, Coleman says these companies have a heightened responsibility to decline call traffic from known and repeat bad actors. Despite extensive industry traceback notices and years of documented warnings, these four providers continue to route suspected illegal robocalls onto the network and into American homes.

In 2022, 51 attorneys general joined forces to create the Anti-Robocall Litigation Task Force led by Jeff Jackson, Todd Rokita, and Dave Yost.

The Task Force investigates and takes legal action against companies responsible for significant volumes of illegal and fraudulent robocall traffic routed into and across the United States.

You can opt out of Kentucky's No Call List, which is maintained as part of the National Do Not Call Registry, by visiting <https://www.donotcall.gov/>.



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Eddie Gayheart everyday working people of Lewis County showing up, doing my job, taking care of my family, and facing the same day-to-day challenges many here

know well.

That's the perspective I come from, because that's the life I've lived.

To me, being a magistrate for my district is about giving back to the place that raised me and continuing to be involved in the community that has always been home.

I'm grateful for the support, conversations, and encouragement that brought me to this point, and I look forward to many more in the months ahead.

Thank you, Lewis County, for shaping who I am and for walking with me on this journey.

## Horsley is candidate for re-election

### By Mark Horsley

Since elected as Lewis County Magistrate for District 4 in January 2023, I have worked diligently and with the highest integrity to represent the residents of District 4 and all citizens of Lewis County.

Today, I am pleased to announce that I have officially filed for re-election as Magistrate for District 4 in the 2026 election.

I am proud to be a lifelong resident of Lewis County. After graduating from Lewis County High School in 2000, I earned a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Administration from Eastern Kentucky University, followed by a Master of Science in Industrial Technology from Morehead State University. For the past 16 years, I have been employed by ENTRUST Solutions



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Mark Horsley Group, an engineering consulting firm based in Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

I have been promoted numerous times throughout my career, and I currently serve as a Project Manager.

In this role, I regularly collaborate with industry leaders, major corporations, and engineering teams to solve complex challenges and drive

growth.

Serving as Magistrate has been both demanding and rewarding.

I have worked tirelessly to advocate for safer and improved road conditions at both the state and county levels. I have worked with Buffalo Trace Area Development and other state agencies on numerous projects, including advocating to secure funding for the remodeling of the Camp Dix Volunteer Fire Department. Additionally, I have prioritized transparency by supporting the purchase and installation of audio/video equipment for Fiscal Court meetings.

This allows for Fiscal Court meetings to be streamed on YouTube and are available for future reference. Throughout my term, I have Please see page 8

## DID YOU KNOW?

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS and newspaper websites are relied on more than any other media for information about public notices and local government.

### 59% Local newspapers/newspaper websites

- 32% Local tv/cable
- 26% Word of mouth/friends/relatives
- 25% Local radio
- 24% Government websites
- 15% City newsletters
- 11% Public bulletin boards
- 7% Non-government website
- 5% Other

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THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

Source: The Kentucky State Study 2023: Conducted by Coda Ventures, Base: Total adults, multiple results

\$1.00

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Save-A-Lot

Benny Chaney Jr.  
Carolyn Smith  
Arnold White  
Charles Rickett  
Judith Cosper  
Roger Jones

