

Legislative Update

State Representative Patrick Flannery



Jesus' Birth: Remembering What Christmas is All About

"Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" If this question sounds familiar, it is because it was posed by Charlie Brown in a moment of frustration about the commercialization of the holiday in A Charlie Brown Christmas. Although commonly regarded as a children's cartoon, the question Charlie Brown poses resonates across generations, inviting us to reflect on the holiday's true meaning.

When we hear the word Christmas today, we may associate it with decorating the Christmas tree, opening gifts on Christmas morning, time spent with family, annual Christmas traditions, or a favorite Christmas song or movie. At the same time, we may also associate it with the emotions the season brings. Christmas, for some of us, is the most wonderful time of the year, while for others, it is a time wrapped in sadness, serving as a solemn reminder of a loved one or friend who is no longer there to celebrate. For some, Christmas feels chaotic, marked by last-minute shopping; for others, it brings the stress of hosting and preparing Christmas dinner for the family.

Amid the noise and emotion of the season, it is easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas- the birth of Christ.

Long ago, a baby named Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem. When He was born, as Luke 2 documents, an angel appeared to shepherds in a nearby field saying, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Far beyond mere words, the angel delivered a message that would forever change the course of

history.

Jesus was born into a broken, lost world in need of a Savior. It was a world filled with sickness, conflict, and turmoil, a world not unlike our own. Into our broken, lost world, Christ came to "seek and save the lost," as Luke 19:10 reminds us, and He did. Years after His birth, His hands and feet would be nailed to a cross, a crown of thorns would be placed upon His head, and He would be crucified by the very world He came to save. However, His story does not end with His death. On the third day, He rose from the grave, conquering sin and death and offering the world the beautiful gift of salvation through His ultimate sacrifice.

The story of Christ's birth represents far more than words on a page. It represents the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Savior, a promise prophesied about centuries earlier. It's a story about God's love for humanity, beautifully articulated in the words of John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." In a world of uncertainty, this passage reminds us of God's steadfast love and the endur-

ing joy and hope the promise of salvation brings.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, may we all take a moment to slow down and reflect on the true meaning of the holiday and embrace the opportunity to share with others the love, joy, and hope that the story of Christ's birth brings. Such love, joy, and hope can be expressed through acts of kindness and generosity- whether it's inviting someone to spend Christmas with your family, volunteering to help those in need, or offering others a word of encouragement. After all, some of the greatest gifts we can give others aren't wrapped in shiny paper.

As I conclude, I want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May God continue to bless our nation and our Commonwealth. And, may we always remember what Christmas is all about.

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

At this time the Vanceburg Police Department would like to thank everyone for their very generous donations to the Christmas Cops Program. Your generosity made the Christmas dreams come true for 130 underprivileged children in Lewis County and gave true meaning to the spirit of the season.

A special thanks goes out to the volunteers, McDonald's, Family Dollar Store, Coroplast Inc., John Clark Oil, Super Quik, Gaydos Funeral Home, David Stafford, Vanceburg Electric Plant Board, Lewis Co. Primary Care, Carl Ginn Services, Lewis Co. Save A Lot, Tire World, Ginn's Hardware, Farm Bu-

reau Insurance, VFW, Trace Creek Construction, Sam & Julie Howard, Steve Applegate, Howe Farm Supply, Lewis County Pawn Shop, Ideal Wheels, Vanceburg Rehab & Care, Crawford's Florist, Dickerson Funeral Home, KY 8 Towing Tim & Cheryl Wright, TK Insurance, Farmer's Co-op Insurance, Anthony Silvey, Lionel Cooper, Chris McGlone, Glenda Himes, Tom Bertram, Ben Harrison, Nichole Cantu, Doug Applegate, Tackett's Giovannis, Tram Construction, Kathy Dillow, Johnny Bivens, Jill O'Cull, Bobby Farrow, Mike Body Shop & Towing, Paul Bruce Swearingen, Joni Pugh & Leigh Taylor, Redbud Realty, Arty's Pizza, Keith Ginn, Kenny Ruckel, Harlan Lee in memory of Katelyn Lee, Jeremy & Charlene Wilburn, Ernie Craycraft, Karen Fraley, Dane Blankenship, Greta May, April May, Stacy Cooper, Black Oak Christian Church, Janice Burriss, Teresa Callahan, Richard Evans, B J's Hair Care, JR Throughman,

Betty Gilliam, Luke Bentley, Brenda Himes, Kathy McCann, Harvey Denham, Clarksburg Christian Church, Judy Smith in memory of Harold Smith, Peoples Bank of Tollesboro, Craycraft Landscaping.

David Jordan, Harlan Flinders, Wiggy Butts Pet Salon, Allen & Josh Bryan, First Christian Church of Garrison, Bonnie Thurman, Kody & Whitney Willis, Maids 2 Order, Woodmen of the World, Duke Dunnigan, Richard Walje Story Realty, Allis Christian Church, and Grace Baptist Church, First Guaranty Bank, Fast Lane Auto Sales, Next Step, Donnie Martin, Lewis Co. Herald, WKKS, Team Center, and Lewis Chamber of Commerce.

If we forgot anyone we apologize.

This is truly a rewarding experience for everyone involved and for that...

Thank you,
Joe Billman, Mayor
Joe Paul Gilbert,
Vanceburg Police Chief

The Kentucky Coffee Trail

By Jenni Kaus

The Kentucky Coffee Trail™, a statewide tourism initiative connecting independent coffee shops across Kentucky, today announced Morehead-Rowan County Tourism as its first Regional Sponsor, marking a significant milestone in the Trail's statewide launch and growth.

Founded in Vanceburg, Kentucky, The Kentucky Coffee Trail™ was created to drive foot traffic, local spending, and community connection by encouraging travelers to explore the Commonwealth through a curated collection of locally owned coffee shops. Spanning all nine of Kentucky's official tourism regions, the Trail positions independent coffee shops as welcoming gateways to local culture, creativity, and place.

"The Kentucky Coffee Trail is an exciting, truly grassroots initiative with the potential to become one of Kentucky's next standout specialty trail experiences," said Joy C. Brown, Executive Director of Morehead-Rowan County Tourism.

As the Trail's first Regional Sponsor, Morehead-Rowan County Tourism will be prominently featured across official Trail materials, including The Kentucky Coffee Trail™ passport, website, and launch marketing. The partnership highlights Morehead and Rowan

County as a key destination within Eastern Kentucky, connecting visitors to outdoor recreation, arts, dining, and local businesses throughout the region.

"Morehead-Rowan County Tourism felt like a natural first regional sponsor because we are aligned in our belief that some of Kentucky's most meaningful experiences are found just off the beaten path, in the small towns and local businesses that anchor the community," said Jenni Kaus, founder of The Kentucky Coffee Trail™.

In addition to driving tourism, the Trail is designed to elevate Kentucky-made products and creative talent by partnering with local coffee shops as platforms for artists, makers, and producers to reach new audiences across the state.

"Morehead-Rowan County Tourism stepping forward as our first regional sponsor demonstrates what's possible when partners invest in locally driven tourism and the small businesses that anchor it," Kaus added. "This project was built to celebrate local businesses and the communities around them. Regional sponsorships and partner collaborations allow organizations to tell their story through the places people already gather, their local coffee shops, while supporting Kentucky creators and

encouraging deeper exploration across the state."

The Kentucky Coffee Trail™ features a printed passport, digital destination content, and storytelling-driven marketing designed to guide visitors from town to town. The initiative is independently founded and operated, developed in collaboration with SOAR (Shaping Our Appalachian Region) and in alignment with the Kentucky Department of Tourism.

With its first regional partnership secured, The Kentucky Coffee Trail™ is actively welcoming additional regional sponsors across Kentucky, open to any business or organization aligned with local economic growth, community connection, and independent business support. Only one regional sponsor is selected per tourism region, creating a limited opportunity to spotlight local destinations, support small businesses, and drive meaningful, long-term tourism impact.

The Kentucky Coffee Trail™ is scheduled for its initial launch in early January with over 30 independent coffee shops on board to date.

For more information about the Trail or regional sponsorship opportunities, visit thekentuckycoffeetrail.com or follow @thekentuckycoffeetrail on social media.

It makes sense to list local, having your listing agent close to your property is a real positive.

With my office being located on Main St. in Vanceburg, I specialize in Lewis County Properties whether homes, acreages, or businesses.

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Sending you our BEST

And wishing you nothing but happiness in the New Year.

Lewis County Cooperative Extension Service
Kennedy, Christa, Diane, Emily, and Maye

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ALL ARTICLES, PHOTOS AND ADVERTISING SHOULD BE IN THE HERALD OFFICE BY FRIDAY AT NOON. Advertisers should check their ad the first time it runs. THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD shall not be liable for failure to publish an advertisement or for a typographical error(s) in the publication except the extent of the cost of the ad for the first insertion. Adjustments for error(s) will be limited to the cost of that portion to the ad wherein the error(s) occurred.

THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD is published weekly at
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THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Notice Of Appointment

Administration has been granted by the Lewis District Court upon the estate of Christine C. Erwin, whose address was 434 Mudlick Rd., Garrison, KY 41141 and Janie E. Skeans whose address is 246 Bellevue Lane, Quincy, KY 41166 was appointed Executrix on December 16, 2025.

All creditors having claims against said estate are notified to present them to Janie E. Skeans at the address showne verified according to law, not later than six months after the last publication of this notice. Any person owing said estate should make payment to said Janie E. Skeans.

Teresa Callahan, Clerk
Lewis Circuit & District Courts

Notice Of Appointment

Administration has been granted by the Lewis County District Court upon the estate of Paul Corns, whose address was 22 Burns Lane, Garrison, KY 41141 and Liberty Jabak whose address is 1087 Glenraven Lane, Clermont, FL 34711 was appointed Executrix on December 17, 2025.

All creditors having claims against said estate are notified to present them to Liberty Jabak at the address shown verified according to law, not later than six months after the last publication of this notice. Any person owing said estate should make payment to said Liberty Jabak.

Teresa Callahan, Clerk
Lewis Circuit & District Courts

THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

"That's Where You'll Find It!"

RIGDON ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, January 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

located 34 Webster Cemetery Rd., approximately 4 miles west of Vanceburg KY on St. Rt. 9 (AA highway)



Real Estate – We will be selling at ABSOLUTE AUCTION the Alden Gay Rigdon estate property. Consisting of a meticulously well-kept 1248 sq. Ft. 3-bedroom home on approximately .70 acres. The home has a spacious master bedroom with large walk in closet and master bath, nice sized kitchen with plenty of cabinet space, island area, dining area, large living room, full guest bathroom and 2 bedrooms with walk in closets (total of 3 bedrooms), large covered porch in the front, and smaller covered porch in the rear. Outside you will find a very well built garage approximately 36x30 on concrete block foundation with poured floors and electric, with another comparable built garage approximately 20x24, both garages have automatic doors. Full asphalt drive from highway to garages, all with a beautifully maintained landscaping. Mr. Rigdon was well known throughout Lewis County and surrounding areas for the upkeep and maintenance of his home and automobiles. This is a very rare opportunity to purchase a home with the picturesque views of Lewis County, on the AA highway and still have all the privacy you could want. Approximately 4 miles to Vanceburg, close to school's, courthouse, post office, grocery, and more!

Terms and Conditions for Real Estate: Sold as is with no warranty of any kind. 10% non-refundable deposit day of auction with the balance due at closing. Closing in approximately 30 days. Possession at closing. Taxes will be prorated to the date of closing. Any and all inspections are the responsibility of the perspective buyer.

A 10% buyer's premium will be added to the bid price to determine the total purchase price. Closing costs are the responsibility of the buyer.

Stacy Cooper Auctioneer w/ Auctions By Cooper LLC (606) 375-0199

Richard Walje Realtor w/ Story Realty (606) 262-0822

Meredith Story Real estate broker w/Story realty (606) 748-7201