

Looking back to July 9, 2018

Written by Jonathan Wright

The following information was entered into the July 9, 2018, edition of The Ledger Independent:

Fourth of July Celebrated in Vanceburg

VANCEBURG — The Fourth of July may have passed, but the city of Vanceburg still had a celebration left in them for the weekend.

Lewis County saw its Fourth of July Celebration in Vanceburg on Friday and Saturday, July 6-7. A plethora of activities and vendors greeted visitors with plenty of festivities in which to participate.

The Streets of downtown Vanceburg were filled with music, the smell of food and the chatter of those enjoying the nice Saturday afternoon weather.

Visitors had several activities like a karaoke contest and cornhole tournament to test their skills against other members of the community in

competition.

Classic cars roamed the streets, on their way to the celebration cruise in. Vendors were also in abundance, peddling their wares and inviting customers over with food.

Ali Doyle, independent consultant for Jam-berry and M Network and local lawyer, was one of the vendors at the celebration, selling various fingernail products alongside other vendors at the Carter House on Second Street. She said the celebration is a great way to bring the community together.

“People say there’s not a lot to do here, but for one, the Carter House where we’re having the event is really been the focal point of getting things going in the community,” Doyle said. “With the fourth of July, it’s bringing people downtown and it’s just wonderful.”

For Doyle, the highlight of the celebration is the community outreach in bringing life to the usually sleeping town of

Vanceburg.

“I think it’s really just bringing the community out,” she said. “There’s music and there’s some games and a lot of vendors, and I think that really the highlight is just bringing everybody out from the community.”

The highlight for many, however, was certainly when night fell and everyone was waiting patiently for the much anticipated fireworks display. While there were visitors throughout the afternoon, drove more came into town to view the coming show of lights and sound. Visitors wouldn’t have to wait in silence, as the Beulah Land Boogie Band kept the crowd entertained with 60s renditions of songs, with a gospel spin on them.

After the near half hour fireworks display had finished, one final hurrah to the celebration was given by the Beulah Land BoogieBand for those who weren’t quite ready to leave.



Photo by Jonathan Wright

Keith Ginn, owner of Ginn Plumbing, built a ride for kids so they could have a fun, free ride around the town. The only payment, Ginn said, was a smile.

Prevent blood shortages by giving blood at upcoming drive

Local patients in need of blood rely on the generosity of Kentucky Blood Center donors

Submitted by Shera Moulton

Donor Recruitment Specialist

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Only you can prevent blood shortages, and that starts by donating blood at an upcoming Kentucky Blood Center blood drive in your community.

Blood cannot be manufactured. That means the health of the blood supply — and the patients who rely on it for a variety of needs — is entirely dependent on donors giving blood at drives like

this one.

Maysville Community Saturday, July 18 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Refinery Church of the Nazarene Foyer 156 Maple Leaf Rd Maysville, KY 41056

Donors will receive a limited-edition “Only You Can Prevent Blood Shortages” T-shirt (while supplies last) as a thank you for doing their part to ensure a healthy blood supply.

Patients in Central and

Eastern Kentucky count on KBC donors. Kentucky Blood Center provides blood to more than 70 local hospitals. Unfortunately, blood donations often decrease in the summer because of warm-weather activities, family vacations and no school.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health, show a photo I.D. and meet additional requirements. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome. To schedule a donation, visit kybloodcenter.org or call 800.775.2522.

KY bill regulating kids’ social media had bipartisan support, AG backing. What killed it?

Sarah Ladd

Kentucky Lantern

Bella Cornett sees a direct line between a social media influencer who posted videos of tricks with vaping smoke and the bullying she endured in her Kentucky high school.

Cornett, 19, said her friend group at the time watched those social media videos as first year high school students and “thought that was so cool.”

They started vaping too, she said. Then, for some, came marijuana, drinking and “harder stuff.”

“Us being in eighth grade and freshmen...we shouldn’t have been seeing that,” Cornett said.

She eventually tried vaping too — because, she says, she was bullied into it.

“I think — then and now — I did it more because they were pressuring me so much, and they kept making it seem like it was so fun and so cool,” she said.

Cornett and other teenagers who spoke to the Kentucky Lantern recently about their experiences with social media said it can be a positive place for connection — but that it needs more guardrails to protect them and more options for parental control. Two of the teenagers are minors who spoke to the Lantern with parental consent.

One Central Kentucky Republican tried unsuccessfully to do just that during the 2026 legislative session — and plans to try again next year.

A bipartisan effort with big backing

Rep. Matt Lockett, R-Nicholasville, filed House Bill 227 in January and it amassed 27 cosponsors, both Republican and Democrat.

The bill took a sweeping aim at “addictive” online features like doomscrolling and autoplay by blocking these features for children. It would have also required social media platforms to estimate the age of users and restrict usage for those under the age of 15 to child settings unless a parent consented otherwise.

The bill proposed giving parents passwords to the children’s accounts so they could monitor and manage the time spent online.

It had the support of Kentucky’s highest law enforcement official, Attorney General Russell Coleman, whose track record includes suing TikTok and Character.AI, an artificial intelligence company.

In committee, Wil Schroder, the senior counsel for Coleman’s office, testified in favor of the bill.

“Attorney General Russell Coleman fully supports this bill, and the office stands ready to defend it should it be challenged,” Schroder said on Feb. 18. “Our attorneys have reviewed this bill, and are encouraged that it is content

neutral in every way, and believe that it will pass a constitutional challenge should it face one.”

It passed the House unanimously on March 9 but progress petered out in the Senate, where it died.

Lockett doesn’t blame senators. He said Meta lobbying against the bill “kicked into high gear” once it passed the House.

“I think it’s unfortunate that a company like Meta wants to protect their bottom dollar so much that they’re willing to do it on the backs of kids,” he told the Lantern.

Meta did not respond to two emails from the Lantern seeking comment. The Lantern also attempted to reach each of the company’s registered lobbyists via phone calls and email.

According to the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission, Meta lobbied on the bill in February, March and April. The company, which owns Facebook and Instagram, lobbied for other bills as well, spending around \$5,600 during the session, according to a legislative agent compensation report from the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission.

Meta Platforms has the following lobbying agents registered with the Legislative Ethics Commission:

Megan Arnold, registered since Jun 10, 2024

Sherman Brown, registered since Dec. 11, 2023

Jeffery Busick, registered since Dec. 11, 2023

Jeff Harper, registered since Dec. 11, 2023

Scott Jones, registered since Dec. 11, 2023

Sara Massey, registered since Jan. 1, 2024

John McCarthy, registered since Dec. 11, 2023

Libby Milligan, registered since Dec. 11, 2023

Chris Rinkus, registered Feb. 20, 2026

Amy Wickliffe, registered since Dec. 11, 2023

In early June, the company announced an expansion of its 13+ content setting, which “is designed to hide content that’s inappropriate for teens in places like Feed and Reels, and to limit teens’ ability to interact with Profiles, Pages, Groups and Events that primarily post inappropriate content.”

Meanwhile, the senate’s failure to pass the bill “should not be viewed as opposition,” said Sen. Lindsey Tichenor, R-Smithfield. A bill stalling often represents “a matter of the legislative process and the need for deliberation, especially when a topic is complex,” she said.

“There’s not a shortage of examples we could identify where a proposal took a couple of years or more to get over the finish line. I

trust the same is true here,” said Tichenor, who serves on several health and education committees in the Kentucky Senate.

Tichenor called Lockett’s bill an effort to “elevate an important conversation about protecting children online” and “I share his concern that families are navigating an increasingly digital world where technology often moves faster than public policy.”

“As with any complex legislation, there are important questions surrounding implementation, constitutional considerations, the interaction with federal law and ensuring government policy reinforces, not replaces, the essential role parents play in raising their children,” she said. “Those are challenges to solve, not reasons to stop pursuing the goal. I hope to see the proposal brought forward again, and (am) willing to carry the torch in the Senate.”

“The right thing to do” Lockett’s passion for social media protections comes from constituent concerns and his own two children, both adults now, he said.

“Social media, of course, was a thing when they were teenagers. I was unaware of — I think probably most people were at that time, just several years ago — were unaware of how dangerous ... social media could be,” he said. “I noticed that they spent a lot of time on it...and I was able to curb that.”

In the course of pushing for the legislation, he said, some pushback he heard was “if parents would just be parents ... then the government wouldn’t have to be involved.”

“While that’s a good statement, and somewhat may be true, what happens with the kids that don’t have parents that are as involved, or don’t have parents at all?” he said. “This is the right thing to do for our Kentucky kids. This is the right thing to do because I believe it is the government’s responsibility to protect its citizens.”

This is especially true, he said, because it involves “children who don’t understand what’s happening to their own brain.”

“This is something I believe that this is the right thing to do, while not being heavy handed from a government standpoint, while not encroaching on First Amendment rights, but at the same time holding these big tech companies accountable to say ‘you’re not going to profit billions of dollars every year off the backs of our children while their brains are destroyed by your product,’” he said. “It did become kind of a personal mission, and still is.”

He plans to introduce HB227 again in 2027.

<https://www.kentucky-lantern.com>

THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT

JENNIFER DONAHUE, Publisher
jdonahue@cmpapers.com, ext. 1240
LESLIE BAKER, Sales Manager
lbaker@cmpapers.com, ext. 1119
PEYTON DUNAWAY, Editor
pdunaway@cmpapers.com, ext. 1270
DANIEL MILLER, Sports Editor
dmiller@cmpapers.com, ext. 1273
CHAD SHELTON, Production/IT
Manager
csnelton@cmpapers.com, ext. 1224
MELODY EVANS, Graphics/
Pagination Manager, melodyevans@championcarolinias.com

News
Story ideas, news tips, etc., should be called in to the newsroom between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Call 564-9091.

Delivery Problems
Circulation Customer Service:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Comments, Letters
The Ledger Independent welcomes and encourages comments from its readers on a wide variety of local, regional, state, national and international issues. Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and mailed to the Editor, The Ledger Independent, 120 Limestone St., Maysville, KY 41056. We welcome comments 24/7 at 606-564-9091 x1251. Please speak slowly and clearly when leaving a comment.
The newspaper reserves the right to edit all letters and comments for libelous, obscene or other inappropriate material.

Corrections
The Ledger Independent seeks to correct all significant errors brought to the editor’s attention. If you have a question or correction on news coverage, contact Peyton Dunaway, editor.

Subscriptions
Periodical postage paid at Maysville, KY. I understand that delivery and billing will continue beyond the initial order period unless I contact the newspaper at 564-9091. Rates may change after introductory offer period. Subscription rates are subject to change.

Postmaster/Subscribers
Please send notice of address change or correction by enclosing mailing address label, plus new address, two to four weeks in advance to: The Ledger Independent, 120 Limestone St., Maysville, KY 41056.

Back Copies
Back issues of The Ledger Independent are for sale at our office at 120 Limestone St. in Maysville. The Ledger Independent keeps a file of back issues for at least one month and can often provide newspapers up to a year after publication.

Advertising
To purchase display or classified advertising in the The Ledger Independent, call one of the numbers listed above and an advertising representative will be happy to serve you.

Advertising Deadlines
Placement and cancellation deadlines for classified in-column line ads for Tuesday-Thursday are accepted until 2 p.m. the day before publication. Classified in-column ads for Saturday are accepted until 11 a.m. the day before publication. Ads for Monday are accepted until 2 p.m. the Friday before publication. Display advertising is accepted until 2 p.m. daily, 48 hours before publication date. Ads that require color, proofs or special camera work require an additional 24 hours added to the above deadline.

SIA Schumacher
INSURANCE AGENCY

BUSINESS • LIFE • HEALTH •
COMMERCIAL SPECIALIST
www.schumacherinsuranceagency.com



Eric Schumacher
Owner

895 US 68 Maysville, KY 41056
129 West Miami St., Brooksville, KY 41004
58 South Main St., Mt. Olivet, KY 41064

Phone:
(606) 759-5663