

2025, Year in Review part 1...

January 7, 2025

Emergency Declarations for Vanceburg, Lewis, Vanceburg and Lewis County have issued Declarations of Emergency as a result of the winter storm that began on Sunday and continued well into Monday night. A declaration has also been issued for all of Kentucky. The state declaration "directs the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management to coordinate the state's response across agencies and private relief organizations." These include the Kentucky National Guard, as well as state transportation workers and local officials, who are working to open warming centers. Vanceburg home destroyed by fire. Firefighters and other first-responders were dispatched to Fairlane Drive in Vanceburg Saturday morning when a home there was reported on fire. Vanceburg Fire Chief David Stafford said the call was received by Lewis County Dispatch at about 8:13 a.m. Saturday. The caller, a passerby, reported the structure fire near the Fairlane Drive entrance to Central Elementary School after seeing smoke coming from

Meade felt that Harrison allegedly failed in his fiduciary and professional duties over a real estate transaction while acting as their private attorney. The suit further stated that Harrison allegedly sued the couple over the same property at a later date. A lawsuit represents only one side of the story, and it's important to consider that there may be other perspectives and evidence that are not presented in the initial lawsuit. Robert Conley to chair Commission on Mental Health. Kentucky Supreme Court Deputy Chief Justice Robert B. Conley is the new chair of the Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health, as Chief Justice Debra Hembree Lambert appointed Conley as her successor as head of the organization. Energy Assistance Program open. Kentucky's Community Action Agencies (CAK) have begun accepting applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Crisis component until March 15, 2025, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

January 21, 2025

First responders have busy week. First responders

copter to Cabell Huntington Hospital with multiple injuries. Crash claims life of Carter County man. A former Lewis County man died in an incident involving a pickup truck and a tree on US 60 near Fleming Fork in Carter County. The incident happened shortly after 1:00 p.m. Thursday, January 16, 2025, according to a spokesman with the Ashland Post of the Kentucky State Police. The spokesman said Daniel Stone III, 38, of Olive Hill, formerly of Lewis County, was traveling east on US 60 in the Olive Hill area when a tree fell onto his 2011 Chevrolet Silverado pickup. The spokesman said Stone was ejected from the truck. Assistance available after Helene. A public notice has been posted that describes FEMA's proposed funding for Kentucky remnants of Hurricane Helene work projects that may adversely affect historic properties, floodplains or wetlands, or may result in continuing vulnerability of these areas to flood damage.

January 28, 2025

Brown takes reins as KPA President. Lewis County Herald Publisher Dennis



January 14, 2025

Krista Lewis/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD
Outside the kitchen window . . . Krista Lewis captured this cardinal enjoying lunch during the winter storm that resulted in emergency declarations, snow emergencies, and seemingly endless hours for snow crews trying to keep roadways passable. A second round over the weekend left a fresh coating of snow and new headaches for road crews.

February 4, 2025

Plant Board hears project updates, mulls rate hike. Members of the Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg heard some welcome news during the first regular board meeting of the year.

"We have completed the final paperwork for the Black Oak Sewer plant permit renewal and it is in the final stages of approval," Plant Board Superintendent Bill Tom Stone said. "We hope to hear back soon." Herald receives news/photo/web awards. Herald reporters and photographers were recognized for news writing, photography, and website presence at the Kentucky Press Association Winter Convention banquet in Lexington. William Platt received a third place award for Best Breaking News Picture for his nighttime photograph of a wildfire at Garrison with the moon peeking through the smoke. Charles Myrick and Dennis Brown took home third place in the Best Website category for www.lewis-countyherald.com. Brown received third place in the Best Breaking News Coverage and Best General News Story categories and first place in the Best Feature Picture and Best Breaking News Picture categories. Micheala Bradshaw is a TRIO Achiever. Micheala Bradshaw has been recognized as a 2025 SAEOP TRIO Achiever for her participation in a TRIO program and outstanding community work. She was recently informed of the honor along with an invitation to attend a conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, going on this week. High school sweethearts wed during winter storm. On January 11, love triumphed over one of the worst winter storms in 20 years as Mark Porter and Emily Adams celebrated their wedding at The Holy Redeemer in Vanceburg. Their story, a tale of enduring love and faith, has warmed the hearts of the community.

February 11, 2025

Bill would allow Commandments posting in schools. Legislation has been introduced for the 2025 regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly by Rep. Richard White, R-Morehead, that would allow the Ten Commandments to be read or posted in public schools within the state.

"The Ten Commandments have had an indelible impact on our nation's founding and society as a whole," said White. "I filed House Bill 116 to allow our teachers or administrators in public school districts the

opportunity to post or read the Ten Commandments, if they so choose." Brown is Lewis Owens Award recipient. Lewis County's Dennis Brown has been named the recipient of the Lewis Owens Community Service Award for 2024. The award was presented during a Kentucky Press Association luncheon as he was taking the position of President of the association. LCFD improves ISO PPC rating. Lewis County Fire and Rescue recently received an improved Public Protection Classification (PPC) which will result in improved insurance rates for property owners in the district. Judge Executive George Sparks said he received notification of the classification from Alex Shubert, Manager of the National Processing Center. He said the department's classification now stands at 05/5Y. Carter Caves planning renovation. Carter Caves State Resort Park campground will undergo a \$3.8 million renovation to enhance the visitor experience and attract new travelers, as part of legislation passed by the 2024 General Assembly that allocated \$40 million in funding for campground improvements.

February 18, 2025

Flooding causes minor damage locally, extensive damage in Eastern Kentucky. With more than 2.5 inches of rain recorded locally, damage was minimal compared to other areas of the commonwealth, especially Eastern Kentucky. At least nine deaths have been attributed to the flooding statewide. Overnight Saturday, rainfall on already saturated soil resulted in embankment failures at Firebrick and on Kinney Road. Large culverts were washed out on Bear Branch and Swearingen Branch. Some trees also toppled and blocked roadways. Night to Shine a success. Night to Shine is an unforgettable worldwide celebration event, centered on God's love, honoring and valuing people with special needs. Clarksburg Christian Church has been a part of this wonderful event since 2018. This year we welcomed over 70 guests and

130 volunteers. Plant Board meets, hears plan update. The Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg met in regular session last week with members hearing an update on a planned project to develop a new well for the utility company's water department. StormReady status renewed. Lewis County has officially completed renewal of StormReady status. Tom Johnstone, Meteorologist-In-Charge at the National Weather Service Office in Wilmington, Ohio, and Brandon Pelouquin, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, made the notification to Emergency Management Director Dennis Brown.

February 25, 2025

Woman rescued after driving into flood water. First responders were called to an area of Quicks Run Road last week that was covered with backwater from the rising Ohio River. A nearby resident called to report a woman stranded on top of a vehicle in the water south of KY 8 where backwater from the river generally covers a low area. A sign near where the Ford pick-up was stranded indicated water on the roadway at nearly five-feet deep. The truck had traveled off the roadway and into the ditch where it was much deeper. Lewis County Dispatch received the call about 3:15 p.m. Tuesday and dispatched first responders to the area of 776 Quicks Run Road. Spring wildfire hazard season is here. State law prohibits burning between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in or within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland through April 15. Tornado drill scheduled for March 5. The 2025 annual Kentucky Statewide Tornado Drill is planned for Wednesday, March 5, at 10:07 a.m. as part of Kentucky's Severe Weather Awareness Week activities. Bivens warns of scam calls. Sheriff Johnny Bivens is warning area residents of a phone scam operating in the area. Bivens said his office has received several reports of a scam involving a male caller claiming to be with the department. He said the caller alleges that the local resident has an outstanding warrant and demands payment of a fine. State Legislators: HB 368 will harm communities and newspapers. Every county in Kentucky has one local business that has been there longer than any other, most more than a century - while some are even closing in on two centuries. In many of these counties, that business is their local newspaper. There is currently a bill, HB368, that seeks to remove legal notices from newspapers and place them on government websites. Websites that are run by the government themselves. What could possibly go wrong with that?

Please see page 3



January 28, 2025

Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD
Dennis Brown presides over the annual Kentucky Press Association's Awards Banquet Friday at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington. Brown will serve as President of the association for 2025. More than 200 were on hand for the banquet, which wrapped up the association's annual convention.

the residence. Kentucky has fared well in winter storm. Although the first major storm of the winter season continues impacting Kentucky, Gov. Andy Beshear said Monday that despite tens of thousands of people being without electricity at this time, the state has fared well with no loss of life and only a few minor injuries reported. What can't Brown Do? Dennis Brown said he has the best job in Lewis County. It's actually the best jobs. Brown, 62, will be the new Kentucky Press Association president on January 24. It's the latest of his multiple duties - he's also general manager of Brown Communications, which operates WKKS Radio (1570 AM and 104.9 FM) in Vanceburg, publisher of THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD newspaper (lewiscountyherald.com), the Lewis County Sheriff Office's public information officer, and the county's Emergency Management Director, where he's a storm spotter and the man who activates the county's outdoor warning sirens. Brown said there's a common denominator among all the jobs. "I have an opportunity through each one to help people," Brown said.

January 14, 2025

More snow atop winter storm snowfall, cold ahead. A second round of snow blanketed Lewis County overnight Friday into Saturday adding an extra layer to the coating of snow, sleet, and frozen rain dumped on the area January 5-6 as the result of a winter storm. Vanceburg and Lewis County issued Declarations of Emergency as a result of that winter storm. A declaration has also been issued for all of Kentucky. Attorney sued for illegal malpractice. Lewis County Attorney Ben Harrison has been sued for Legal Malpractice. The malpractice lawsuit has been filed by Carrie Cox and Guy Meade of Lewis County. The suit stated that Cox and

in Lewis County have had a busy week between calls for assistance during severe weather to battling fires. The calls included two reports of fires resulting in major losses. Firefighters were called to Carrington Avenue in Vanceburg early Friday morning when a neighbor noticed the home on fire next door. Vanceburg Fire Chief David Stafford said the call was received about 3:30 Friday morning to respond to the home of Raymond Hoffman. Firefighters were called to Blue Springs near Clarksburg Friday night when a garage was reported on fire about 10:00 p.m. Neighbors reported the fire at 960 Blue Springs Branch Road to Lewis County 911 and volunteer firefighters responded from the Lewis County, Vanceburg, and Black Oak fire departments along with deputies, Vanceburg Police Officers and emergency management. The detached garage and all its contents were destroyed along with a pick-up parked nearby. Commonwealth's Attorney 'excited' to change tracks. After officially being sworn in as Commonwealth's Attorney for Lewis and Greenup counties, Rhese McKenzie said one word continues to pop up in the rehauled prosecutor's office: excited. McKenzie, a Russell native and former public defender, defeated two former assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys in the 2024 Republican primaries, resulting in the local attorney pivoting from his most recent role in private practice to prosecuting all felony cases for the two-county court circuit. Teen hurt in bike/auto crash. First responders were called to KY 8 West of Garrison Thursday evening after dispatchers received a call from a motorist reporting a bicyclist that had been struck by a vehicle. Sheriff Johnny Bivens said 17-year-old Calvin Napier of Garrison was taken by medical heli-

Brown assumed the presidency of the Kentucky Press Association Friday during a Changing of the Guard Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington. Brown has served as a KPA Board Member for many years and has held the offices of treasurer, vice-president, and president-elect on the executive committee before moving into the position of president of the organization last week. More NTI days requested. Kentucky Education Commissioner Robbie Fletcher plans to ask lawmakers for more non-traditional instruction, or at-home learning days, beyond the 10 allowed now. Pardoned. "This is our house, and we're not going anywhere. You guys can leave," Matthew Carver said he told officers outside the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. Carver, 50, of Vanceburg, pleaded guilty to a felony offense of obstruction of law enforcement during a civil disorder last month before US District Chief Judge James E. Boasberg. As one of his first acts as President, Donald Trump issued about 1,500 pardons and commuted the sentences of 14 who were convicted for their roles in the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol that left more than 140 police officers injured.

Carver was among those 1,500.

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