



Vanceburg Mayor Dane Blankenship (center) poses with city workers following the installation of mural additions depicting six well-known Lewis County artists. The artists, left to right, are Roger Cooper, Noah Kinney, Charley Kinney, Bobby Mackey, Mitchell Tolle, and Faith Esham. The artwork was unveiled Saturday.

May 6, 2025

Side-by-side incident claims life of Indiana man. Deputies are investigating an incident involving an ATV that resulted in the death of an Indiana man Saturday morning. Lewis County Sheriff's Deputy Taylor Martin said the incident happened about 11:45 a.m. Saturday on a remote section of property at 1806 Adventures off Briery Creek Road. Martin said Christopher Wayne Bates, 48, of Charlestown, Indiana, was operating the side-by-side when he apparently lost control of the vehicle and it overturned several times. Mr. Bates was pronounced dead at the scene by Deputy Coroner Amanda Gaydos. Vanceburg mural honors local artists. Mayor Dane Blankenship and the City of Vanceburg are honored to unveil the new Lewis County Artist mural. Despite the steady rain, the unveiling ceremony was a truly meaningful and unforgettable occasion. Brenda Bear, who created the mural, said officials are deeply grateful to everyone who braved the weather to celebrate with us and contributed to the day's success. Guilty pleas entered in death of toddler. A Maysville man and a Vanceburg woman have entered guilty pleas in a drug-related incident resulting in the death of a child and endangerment of two others two years earlier. William Hanna, 39, of Maysville, and Brittany Elaine Wolfe, 38, of Vanceburg had each been indicted on two charges of first-degree wanton endangerment and a charge of murder. REAL ID deadline is Wednesday. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced that REAL ID full enforcement will begin Wednesday, requiring travelers to present a REAL ID-compliant license or another acceptable form of identification to board domestic flights. This means that state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards that do not meet REAL ID security standards will no longer be accepted at TSA checkpoints.

May 13, 2025

Council considers enhanced financial discussions. Meeting in regular session last week, Vanceburg City Council discussed having a portion of each meeting dedicated to having additional information provided concerning items on the monthly financial report. Council Member Joni Pugh made a motion, which was seconded by Member John Grabill to review the city's monthly financial reports at each meeting and answer any questions. Member Nichole Cantu stated the reports provided to council members include information detailing financial transactions of the city and suggested that any questions about those transactions be asked during the regular monthly sessions. "If you have a question about something on this report, ask," stated Member Kathy McCann. In the absence of Member Angie Patton, the motion

failed by a three-to-two vote with Cantu, McCann, and Member Richard Walje voting no while Grabill and Pugh voted in favor. Multi-county pursuit ends with arrest. A vehicle pursuit that began in Mason County and continued through Fleming County ended when the vehicle being pursued crashed in Lewis County. According to the release, the driver, identified as Nicole Bainter, 32, of Maysville, was taken into custody after a brief struggle and was charged with: Disregarding a traffic control device, Speeding 26+ MPH over the limit, Operating a motor vehicle under the influence (DUI), Driving on a DUI-suspended license, Wanton Endangerment 1st Degree, Assault 1st Degree, and Resisting Arrest. Events Saturday for new driver's permit legislation. Now that a new Kentucky law, House Bill 15, has taken effect allowing 15-year-olds to earn their driver's permits, Team Kentucky is hosting events across the state on Saturday, May 17, to help meet the increased interest from young Kentuckians wanting to apply for a permit. "Keep his legacy strong" Field Day honors Philip Konopka. Dressed in a peach costume, Macy Fawns, Mason County horticulture agent for University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension, asked 150 third graders how their day was going at the Youth Field Day in Lewis County. "Just peachy!" the students yelled back. It was a favorite saying of Philip Konopka, who was an agriculture and natural resources agent at the Lewis County Extension Office from 2005 until his death in May 2023. The annual field day, hosted by agents in Lewis, Mason, Carter, Fleming, Bracken and Robertson counties, was started in 2024 in Philip's honor. Third graders from all four Lewis County elementary schools attended the Youth Field Day, which included stations for honeybees, fruit smoothies, dairy cattle, sun safety, wildlife, farm equipment, petting zoo and hand-washing.

May 20, 2025

Tornadoes rock south and southeastern Kentucky. At least 18 deaths have been confirmed from violent tornadoes that swept through the commonwealth late Friday evening into early Saturday morning, causing significant damage in the London and Somerset areas. The wave of tornadoes flattened buildings, destroyed cars, kept thousands without power and collapsed homes and neighborhoods throughout south and southeastern Kentucky. Thank an EMS worker this week. This is National EMS Week. This is National EMS Week, a time to show our gratitude toward EMTs and paramedics who provide lifesaving care across the nation every day. EMS Week is also a time to educate the public about EMS, and the essential service they provide to our community. Plant Board moves toward new provider. Members of the Electric Plant Board of the City of Vance-

burg are moving forward as they prepare to change electricity providers. "We continue to work with AEP Energy Partners to finalize the transition over from Kentucky Power," Plant Board Superintendent Bill Tom Stone told board members during their regular session. Salvation Army, Health Department partnership will expand services. The local Salvation Army unit has announced a new partnership between the Salvation Army and Lewis County Health Department's BRIDGE Program to provide expanded support for local residents in need.

Beginning this month, Salvation Army services will be co-located with the BRIDGE Program at the Lewis County Health Department to better serve the community through a coordinated approach.

May 27, 2025

County expected to allow registered ATVs on roadways. Lewis County Fiscal Court began the process to allow registered ATVs on roadways following approval by the legislature for counties to decide on the issue. Magistrates asked County Attorney Benjamin Harrison to draft an ordinance and scheduled a special meeting last week to hear the first reading, putting the proposal on the fast track for passage. Volunteers needed to review foster care cases. Lewis is among 26 Kentucky counties calling on compassionate community members to make a difference in children's lives through volunteering with Citizen Foster Care Review Boards. CFCRB volunteers review cases of children in foster care due to dependency, neglect and abuse, and make critical recommendations regarding their care and placement. Board of Ed recognizes student successes. Meeting in regular session, member of the Lewis County Board of Education recognized several elementary students for their efforts in reaching 1,000 Sight Word Recognition status. Fiscal Court meets. Lewis County Fiscal Court began the process to allow registered ATVs on roadways following approval by the legislature for counties to decide on the issue. In other business, magistrates approved resolutions for county road aid from the state and to finance new trucks for the road department. Court members heard the first reading of the proposed county budget for the next fiscal year which will get underway on July 1.

June 3, 2025

Lewis County Clean-up event this week. Lewis County residents are encouraged to take part in a countywide clean-up event happening this week, offering a great opportunity to dispose of unwanted items at no cost and help keep our community clean. Splash Pad open for the season. The Black Oak Recreation Park Splash Pad is open for its second season. The Splash Pad will be open every day from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. through the summer

(weather permitting). LCHS Class of 2025 Graduates. Lewis County High School held commencement exercises on Friday, May 23. Sen. Robin Webb switches parties. State Senator Robin Webb has officially switched her party affiliation from Democrat to Republican, marking a

party switch to garner so much attention. Webb, who has represented back-county counties in Frankfort since the 1990s, has been the center of both praise and contempt after announcing she would be joining the Republican Party last week. Family Fun Day to benefit

June 24, 2025

Teamwork advances recreation park project. The Lewis County Recreational Park Board is expressing its sincere appreciation to the many individuals and organizations who have contributed their time, talent, and resources toward the construction of a new bas-



Up on the roof . . . Orus Weaver and his work crew make repairs to the Lewis County Courthouse as storm clouds loom in the background. Fiscal court recently authorized the repairs in an effort to curb persistent leaks in portions of the 86-year-old structure's roof and cupola.

significant political shift in the state's legislature. Webb, who has represented Kentucky's 18th Senate District since 2009 and previously served in the state House from 1999, announced her decision on Friday. She cited the Democratic Party's "lurch to the left" and its focus on policies that she believes harm workforce and economic development in Eastern Kentucky as primary reasons for her departure. Virtual town halls for foster care. The public is invited to virtual town hall meetings in June hosted by Citizen Foster Care Review Boards to discuss ways to improve outcomes for Kentucky families and children in the foster care system.

June 10, 2025

Meth and heroin seized during traffic stop. A Vanceburg man was arrested last week after sheriff's deputies seized methamphetamine and heroin during a traffic stop in Tollesboro. Deputy Taylor Martin responded to a report of a suspicious male on KY 57 in Tollesboro last Tuesday. Deputies arrested 44-year-old Justin Adams of Vanceburg. He was charged with trafficking in heroin, trafficking in methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and no registration plates. He was lodged in the Greenup County Detention Center. Council hears proposed budget. Members of Vanceburg City Council met in regular session last week and heard the first reading of the city's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-26. Mayor Dane Blankenship presented the budget for council. City Attorney Stephen McGinnis presented the summary reading for council members. Sen. Robin Webb: "Give me a chance". Sen. Robin Webb, who just a couple of weeks ago was the lone Democrat representing rural Kentuckians,

TPOK. Treasured Paws of Kentucky (TPOK), a dedicated nonprofit animal rescue group, will host a Family Fun Day and Benefit Auction on Saturday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Tollesboro Lions Club Park. Admission is free, and all are invited for an evening of music, food, and fun — all for a good cause.

June 17, 2025

Fiscal court approves budget. Lewis County Fiscal Court approved the county's annual budget and took steps toward exploring a tourism partnership with Greenup County during its regular June meeting last week. Greenup County Judge Executive Bobby Hall and Tourism Director Jaime Bloss presented the partnership concept, which would allow both counties to better compete for state tourism dollars and grants. EPB transitions to new electricity provider. The Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg has officially transitioned to a new electricity provider, with Superintendent Bill Tom Stone reporting a smooth handoff from Kentucky Power to AEP Energy Partners. Kentucky seeing shift in voter registration. Across Kentucky, "other" political registrations have now outpaced Republican and Democratic gains for three consecutive months. Secretary of State Michael Adams reported the trend in a voter registration update earlier this month. Board of Ed approves policies. Lewis County Board of Education members approved a number of policies and actions during their regular June meeting at the district office. Board members gave first-reading approval to the 2025-26 District Policies and Procedures, and approved SportsYou as the current traceable community platform for Lewis County students.

ketball court at the park. Garrison woman facing drug charges. A lengthy investigation into suspected drug activity in Greenup County led to the arrest of a Garrison woman earlier this month. According to a release from the Greenup County Sheriff's Office, on June 5, Greenup County Sheriff Matt Smith and deputies executed a search at a residence on Leatherwood Road following reports that an infant was living in the home while narcotics were being sold there. Youth fatally injured in side-by-side incident. Officials are investigating a fatal incident involving a side-by-side at the Vanceburg Boat Dock Recreation Area Saturday night. Assistant Vanceburg Police Chief Joe Billman said the incident happened shortly before 10:00 p.m. and was reported to the Lewis County 911 Dispatch Center. Billman said Bradley Workman, eight-years-old, was transported to Southern Ohio Medical Center in Portsmouth, Ohio, where he succumbed to his injuries. Billman said Adam Thacker, 39, of Vanceburg, was later arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol (with aggravating circumstances), second degree criminal trespassing, and vehicular homicide while under the influence of alcohol. Street-legal off road vehicle registrations to begin Friday. Beginning Friday, June 27, residents in Lewis County will be able to register certain off-road vehicles for legal road use under Kentucky's new Street-Legal Special Purpose Vehicle (SLSPV) program. Operation of these vehicles will officially be permitted beginning July 1, per a county ordinance passed earlier this year.

To be continued next week.