

From the Press Box

By Bill Tom Stone

With the local baseball and softball fields full of young boys and girls getting ready for the season, it is time to start focusing on the diamond. From Little League to high school, the teams are practicing and preparing for the season. We will look at each group and try to set the stage for the upcoming weeks.

We will start with Lewis County High School baseball. Weather permitting, the boys will kick off their season on March 16 at home against West Carter at 6:00 p.m. Then, on Wednesday, March 18, they will be on the road to play Mason County. They will then be back at the friendly confines of home on Thursday to play the Montgomery County Indians. On Saturday, they will finish up the week against an always-tough Harrison County team. Coach Wallingford is looking forward to seeing how his guys perform early in the season. We will keep you up to date with the team's progress.

Now on to LCHS softball. The Lady Lions were scheduled to hold their local Blue/White game this past Friday night, March 13, and scrimmage Nicholas County, but it was canceled due to high winds. The Lady Lions start the regular season on Tuesday, March 17, on the road against Fleming County. Then, on Thursday, March 19, they are home to take on East Carter. On Saturday, March 21, they will host the "Lady Lions Triangle" at home and will play two games. First, they play Bracken County at 12:00 noon and then Belfry at 4:00 p.m. Right now, the weather looks good, and it would be a great time to come out and support the team.

Lewis County Middle School baseball is also kicking off its season on March 17 against Russell at home. A couple of days later, they will travel to Bath County on March 19. The middle school softball team will also be diving into play this week, taking on Bracken County at home on March 17 and Bath County at home on March 20. We hope that the community comes out and supports the teams.

Coach Wes Bloomfield's track team will have its first outdoor meet on March 28 and is still looking for kids who would like to join the team. The team could have placed in numerous meets last year if they had more athletes participating in events. In a meet, you may have 25 events for both boys and girls, but if you don't have a participant in an event, your team doesn't earn points. So having athletes in track—and really all



LEWIS COUNTY HERALD
From left to right: TJ Freno, Whitney Freno, Levi Clark, and Tegan Cooper.

sports—counts. Encourage kids to come out for the team, and they will have a great time.

The LCHS basketball teams had players who received honors from the Eastern Kentucky Conference this past week. Those receiving awards from the boys' squad include Daylen Bivens, EKC Player of the Year; Julian Puente, Offensive Player of the Year; and both Conner Gerike and Brody Detillion, who made First Team All-EKC. From the Lady Lions, Natalee Gilbert, Kiya Noble, and Khalee Stamper made First Team All-EKC. We would like to congratulate all the young athletes who accomplished this feat.

The football team had a number of its players participate in the Raceland Show of Strength Weight Meet on March 7. Those who attended the meet included Jaidence Cottingham, Houston Colvin, Ryan Wolfe, Brian Weber, Everett Kamer, David Rister, and Landon Blevins. The team had a great time, and Jaidence Cottingham placed first in his weight category. The path to success in foot-

ball is lined with hard work in the weight room and desire within the heart. Good luck to Coach Stamm and his guys this coming year.

Another sporting event that included several Lewis County residents was the 2026 Disney Princess Half Marathon in Orlando, Florida, on March 1. Levi Clark, Tegan Cooper, Whitney Freno, and TJ Freno finished the run and had a great time. The foursome is pictured below. Levi was the

quarterback of the 2011 District Championship football team and was recently named the Superintendent of the Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg.

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THE LEWIS COUNTY
HERALD

Legislative Update

State Representative Patrick Flannery



Committee approves effort to lower electricity costs

As someone who has watched families in eastern Kentucky struggle with rising energy costs, I am encouraged by the recent movement on legislation I'm honored to sponsor, the Eastern Kentucky Energy Savings Act. The measure is focused on lowering costs for consumers while strengthening the reliability of our power grid.

The measure was filed in late February and cleared the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee on March 5. It passed with strong bipartisan support after receiving endorsements from a variety of groups and companies—including advocates, labor representatives, and business groups.

At its core, HB 535 allows electric utilities to securitize certain costs through bond financing, with regulatory oversight, so that the impact on customers is reduced and infrastructure investment can continue. The bill also requires a two-year freeze on rate increases for any utility that applies for securitization. That combination could mean millions in annual savings passed directly to households. In addition, HB 535 requires the Public Service Commission to find that securitization would provide a cost savings to ratepayers before it is approved.

Similar approaches work in other parts of the country and securitization has become a tool nationwide to lower en-

ergy costs and make electricity more affordable. For the average family here, HB 535 could save roughly \$144 a year. That may not sound like a lot on the surface, but for households balancing every dollar, it is real relief.

What excites me most is that this legislation helps families in our region in another way: by strengthening our local economy and paving the way for a massive investment in infrastructure. Increased generation capacity shields our region from volatile energy markets, while the construction projects associated with HB 535, including the nine-figure upgrade at the Big Sandy Plant, translate into long-term work for local residents. This will be particularly true for skilled union members.

Supporters include Marathon; the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers; Kentucky State Building and Construction Trades Council; Plumbers, Pipefitters, and HVACR Local 248; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 317; Tri-State Building Trades Unions; Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Northeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Floyd County Chamber of Commerce; One East; Appalachia Service Project; Kentucky Association of Economic Development; Appalachia Reach Out; VIP Fuels; Hillcrest Bruce Mission; Sandy Valley Habitat for

Humanity; Hazard-Perry County Industrial Development Alliance; Pine Mountain Partnership; Hazard Perry County Chamber of Commerce; Facing Hunger Foodbank; and Consumer Energy Alliance.

In a letter of endorsement, Appalachia Reach Out Executive Director Dwayne Mills shared, "From our perspective, these efforts reflect a sincere attempt to balance reliability, affordability, and economic development for eastern Kentucky. Increased generation capacity will help shield our region from energy market volatility."

Shane Wolfe, Business Manager for the IBEW Local Union 317, shared in an endorsement, "Directing capital toward in-state infrastructure not only strengthens energy independence and reliability but also supports high-quality construction and maintenance jobs for skilled workers."

HB 535 represents more than just a financial tool. It is a signal that our energy policies can put communities first, create real jobs, and offer families meaningful relief. This is a step forward we can be proud of, and I look forward to seeing it continue through the legislative process.

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.

Imagine Foundation basketball game made extra special



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Imagine Foundation is about inclusion, friendship, and community. We strive to create opportunities where individuals of all abilities can play, participate, and feel valued. LCMS Cheerleaders recently helped make our final Imagine Foundation basketball game extra special! Thank you for bringing the spirit and cheering on our players. Moments like this show how powerful inclusion and community support can be.



Invitation to Bid

The Lewis County Fiscal Court will be accepting bids for an Annual Maintenance Contract Agreement for Fire Alarm System.

All contractors must submit bids by 1:00 p.m. on April 13, 2026, to the Lewis County Judge Executives Office at 112 Second Street, Vanceburg, Ky. Bids will be opened at the regular scheduled Fiscal Court meeting on April 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

The Lewis County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

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FARM CONTRACT LEASE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg is accepting proposals for a lease/rental agreement for the 23 +/- acres located on KY 8 in Black Oak, Lewis County, Kentucky for a crop lease. All proposals must be received in writing at the EPB office located at 191 Front Street, Vanceburg, Kentucky, by personal delivery, or by mail, postage prepaid, addressed to:

ATTN: LAND LEASE BID PROPOSALS
Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg
191 Front Street, P.O. Box 489
Vanceburg, Kentucky 41179

Proposals will be publicly opened as soon as possible after 4:00 PM on Friday, March 27 2026 at the office of the Electric Plant Board. Proposals must be received at the EPB of Vanceburg office not later than 4:00 PM on Friday, March 27, 2026. No pre-proposal meeting will be held.

All questions regarding proposals should go to Superintendent Bill Tom Stone. Questions must be submitted in writing via email to chad_darland@hotmail.com or faxed to (606) 796-6311. The cut-off date and time for questions is Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

It is the responsibility of the prospective proposers to contact the Electric Plant Board to verify receipt of questions at (606) 796-2641. Based upon such inquiry, the EPB of Vanceburg may choose to issue an Addendum.

I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

All proposals must be properly signed by an authorized representative of the company with the legal capacity to bind the company to the contractual agreement. In addition, the proposer's authorized signature of the proposal assures the company's understanding of the EPB of Vanceburg's Procurement Policy. A copy of the policy is available upon request at the EPB of Vanceburg's Administrative Office. Proposal(s) may be withdrawn up to the date and time set for closing upon written, faxed, or e-mailed notice to the EPB of Vanceburg. Negligence upon part of the proposer in preparing their proposal(s) shall not constitute a right to withdraw a proposal(s) subsequent to the proposal opening. A conditional or unqualified proposal may be cause for rejection. Only proposals properly received will be accepted. Each proposal and applicable documentation as requested must be submitted in a sealed envelope, with the name and address of the proposer conspicuously printed on the outside of the envelope, addressed to:

ATTN: LAND LEASE BID PROPOSALS
Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg
191 Front Street, P.O. Box 489
Vanceburg, Kentucky 41179

THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

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