



THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

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Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

This injured juvenile bald eagle is expected to make a full recovery following treatment at a wildlife rehabilitation facility. The majestic bird was hurt in making contact with a power line in Vanceburg.

Bald eagle hurt in power line incident

By Dennis K. Brown

A juvenile bald eagle was injured last week after striking an electric line along West Second Street in Vanceburg, prompting a quick response from local officials and wildlife rescuers.

The young female eagle, still lacking the distinctive white head and tail feathers of a mature bird, apparently came into contact with power lines or caused lines to make contact with each other. The incident, on Monday morning, resulted in a brief power

outage affecting nearby residents and businesses. Utility crews responded quickly to restore service, while local authorities worked to secure the injured bird.

The eagle suffered injuries to a wing and a leg, though officials say the injuries do not appear to be life-threatening.

Vanceburg Police Chief Joe Paul Gilbert, along with animal control personnel, safely recovered the eagle at the scene. A Lewis County Sheriff's deputy then transported the bird to an animal rescue facility, where it was

later transferred to a licensed wildlife rehabilitation center for further care.

Wildlife experts say incidents involving birds of prey and power lines are not uncommon, particularly among younger birds still learning to hunt and navigate. Juvenile bald eagles can be especially vulnerable during their first year as they develop flight skills and range more widely in search of food.

Despite the scare, there is good news.

The eagle is expected to make a full recovery and,

if rehabilitation progresses as planned, will eventually be released back into the wild.

The presence of bald eagles in the area continues to be a positive sign of environmental recovery. Once endangered, the species has made a remarkable comeback in

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EKP rate increase will be seen locally

By Dennis K. Brown

The Kentucky Public Service Commission has approved a revenue increase of nearly \$64 million for East Kentucky Power Cooperative, a move that will ultimately affect electric customers in Lewis County.

EKPC provides wholesale electricity to member cooperatives, including Fleming-Mason Energy Cooperative and Grayson Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, which serve Lewis County residents and businesses.

In its final order, the commission approved a revenue increase of \$63,670,273, or 5.98 percent, slightly below the \$63.7 million increase proposed in a Joint Settlement Agreement and well under the \$79.7 million, or 7.49 percent, originally requested by EKPC.

The case stems from EKPC's application seeking higher revenues to support operations and infrastructure. All 16 of EKPC's owner-member cooperatives filed corresponding requests to pass the increase through to

their retail customers.

A Joint Settlement Agreement filed in November 2025 between EKPC, the Kentucky Attorney General and Nucor proposed the reduced increase and several changes to EKPC's rate structure and financial mechanisms.

Among those proposed changes was the creation of a symmetrical earnings mechanism, or SEM, which would have automatically adjusted rates based on EKPC's financial performance. Under that proposal, customers could have received bill credits if earnings exceeded a certain level, or faced additional charges if earnings fell below a set threshold.

However, the Public Service Commission rejected that portion of the agreement.

In its order, the commission cited concerns that EKPC's recent financial history suggested it would be more likely to collect additional revenue than issue refunds. Regulators also expressed concern that the SEM could allow

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Drought conditions worsen

By Dennis K. Brown

All of Lewis County is now classified in a moderate drought, according to the latest US Drought Monitor report, as dry conditions continue to expand across Kentucky.

The newest report shows nearly the entire state experiencing some level of drought, with only a very small portion of Northern Kentucky remaining unaffected.

Lewis County is now fully in the D1, or moderate drought category, reflecting a gradual worsening of conditions over recent weeks as rainfall has remained below normal.

Statewide, moderate drought conditions now cover more than half of Kentucky, increasing slightly to 55.81 percent of the state's land area.

Even more concerning, severe drought conditions, classified as D2, have expanded to nearly 27 per-

cent of the state, while extreme drought, or D3, has increased sharply to more than 12 percent, primarily impacting western Kentucky.

Experts say the trend is part of a longer dry period that has affected the region for several months.

Brian Fuchs with the National Drought Mitigation Center noted that virtually the entire state is now experiencing drought conditions, with moderate and severe drought expanding across central and western Kentucky.

He added that the period from November 2025 through March 2026 ranks among the driest on record for parts of the state.

While Lewis County is not currently in the more severe drought categories, the designation of moderate drought can still have impacts, particularly on agriculture, water supplies and fire risk.

Dry conditions can

stress crops and pastures, lower water levels in ponds and streams, and increase the potential for outdoor fires.

There may be some relief in the near term. The Climate Prediction Center is forecasting near to slightly below normal temperatures through early May, along with a chance for above-normal precipitation.

Officials say that rainfall over the coming weeks will be critical in determining whether drought conditions improve or continue to worsen.

The US Drought Monitor, which is updated weekly, is produced through a partnership involving the National Drought Mitigation Center, the US Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Board of Ed recognizes students

By Dennis K. Brown

The Lewis County Board of Education met in regular session approving a wide range of personnel, operational and policy items while also recognizing student achievements across the district.

Board members recognized several students and programs during the meeting. Summer Smith was highlighted for her work as a WIOA Technology Intern. Members of the Lewis County Middle School Academic Team were also recognized, including Kinslee Dyer, Skarlette Morrison, Reid Patton, Paxton Porter, Tucker Tackett, Jennifer Watson, Keagan Ford, Josiah Hylander, Easton Stamm, Ashley Bradford, Cole McGlone, Ramzi McAdams-Thornton,

Willow Nolen, Phoenix Rizzo, Alexa Thomas, Gavin Weddington, and Ava Williams.

Students from Garrison and Tollesboro elementary schools were honored for academic achievements, including mastering 1,000 sight words and completing Lexia and Lexia Power-Up programs. Recognized students included Andrew Watson, River Golsby, Jaelyn Welch, Jessa Bivens, Cassadee Owens, River Rochester, Matilda Ronk, Mykal-Shae Gibson, Christopher Watson, Brookelynn Jamison, Thatcher Nolan, Arlo Wilson, Lukas Higgins, Bella Sparks, Kenton Speer, Aubrey Bloomfield, Bryson Cooper, Peyton Howard, Brynlee Johnson, Ava Lumpkins, Lilee Maddix, Harper Osborne,

Reid Patton, Lane Porter, Carol Singler, Tucker Tackett, Sophie Brown, Brooklyn Carrington, Emberleigh Cole, Zechariah Cooper, Rafe Knell, Jennifer Watson, Lincoln Hampton, Gatlin Gooding, Nova Hord, Mina Mouw, Jasper Wheeler, Johnny Grigson, David Carroll, Briar Skidmore, Grant Parker, Maria Zamora, and Sarek Applegate.

Reports were presented by district staff, including Lori Ginn-O'Keefe on attendance, Sara Smith on instruction, Quentin Allen on technology, Bill Allen on transportation and Woody Underwood on operations. A principal presentation was delivered by Stephanie Hensley, and an Elevate Gear Up grant presentation was

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YOUR VOTE COUNTS

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Candidate Meet and Greet hosted by Lewis County Republican Party.

Hear the audio of the "MEET THE CANDIDATES" Forum on WKKS Radio and streaming at WKKSradio.com

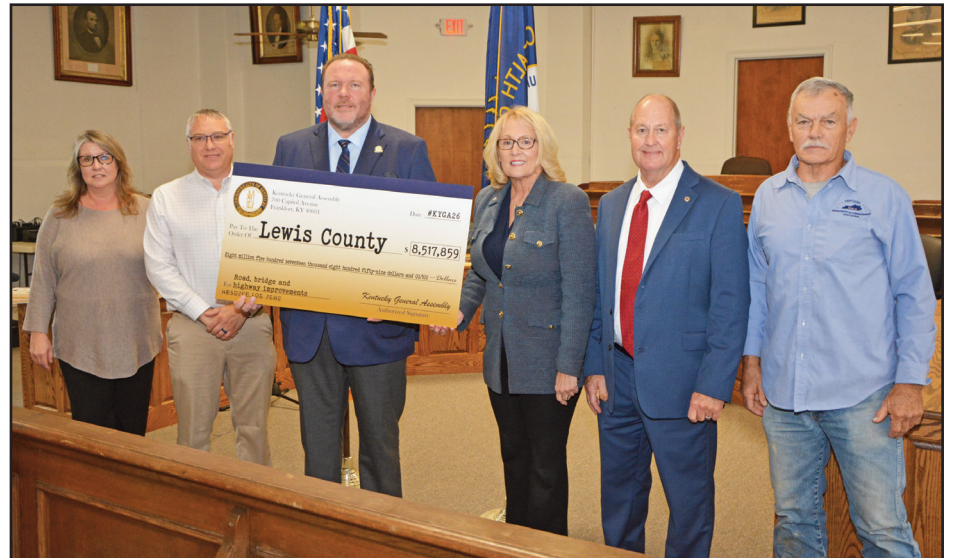
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WEDNESDAY 1:00 P.M.

THURSDAY 6:00 P.M.

★ LOCAL CANDIDATES. LOCAL ISSUES. YOUR FUTURE. ★



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Among funding presentations made Friday by Rep. Patrick Flannery and Sen. Robin Webb was \$8,517,859 for road, bridge and highway improvements in Lewis County. Pictured, from left, are Buffalo Trace Area Development District Transportation Planner Melissa Hardy, Magistrate Mark Horsley, Rep. Patrick Flannery, Sen. Robin Webb, Judge Executive George Sparks, and Magistrate Johnny Osborne.

\$1.00

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Kathy Dillow for Magistrate

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Darrell Polley
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