

BALL MILL

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you know he's full of energy and I admire his determination and his perseverance," Sparks said.

Sparks said Wallingford's work represents the type of innovation and entrepreneurship needed for the region's future.

"I think what he's doing here is amazing," Sparks said. "He not only sells them not just in Kentucky or the United States but far beyond, and I believe that's pretty unique."

Sparks also highlighted investments being made throughout Lewis County, including emergency services, broadband expansion, workforce development and recreation projects.

"Our businesses are the backbone of our community," Sparks said. "They employ our people and they put food on our family's tables."

Congressman Andy Barr connected the company's work to national economic and security concerns, particularly involving rare earth minerals and advanced manufacturing.

Barr said the United States faces growing competition from China in critical mineral processing and advanced technologies.

"What this is all about is

national security and this company is contributing to American competitiveness," Barr said.

Barr praised Wallingford's persistence and entrepreneurial spirit.

"The only way to build a successful enterprise like what we have here in Tollesboro now is through the grit and never-give-up attitude of an entrepreneur," Barr said.

Wallingford later explained how ball mill technology is used to recycle and recover rare earth materials from products such as magnets and electronic circuit boards.

"The ball mill you see sitting right back there (gesturing toward the back of the facility) is going to be actually used to get the rare earth minerals out of incinerated circuit boards from computers," Wallingford said.

He also discussed the company's involvement in processing fly ash materials reclaimed from former coal ash ponds.

"The equipment that we make makes a difference," Wallingford said. "What we manufacture in this area is contributing to the planet, not just here."

Dr. Ahmad Zargari, dean of the College of Science and Engineering at Morehead State University, spoke emotionally about Wallingford's jour-

ney from working night shift while attending school to becoming a successful entrepreneur.

"He did not stop," Zargari said. "He was perseverant. He had the stamina. He had the belief."

Zargari said Wallingford always believed he could build something significant in the region.

"His dream was, 'I will make it happen,'" Zargari said.

He described the success as important not only for Lewis County, but for Kentucky and the nation.

"Ten years ago, people wouldn't imagine that even something can happen — a company here serving people here producing something that in California they are asking for and overseas they're asking for," Zargari said.

Kevin Cornette, execu-

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board on the proposed battery project involving On-Site Partners, saying the project continues to be reviewed while the utility awaits additional information involving transmission zones and possible alternatives.

The board approved the sale and disposal of surplus property owned by the utility, which was the only formal action taken during the meeting.

tive director of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District, also emphasized the broader regional significance of the company's success.

"This is not just a Lewis County impact," Cornette said. "This does have a regional impact."

Cornette recalled working with Wallingford during the early stages of the business, when securing financing and support was difficult.

"There's a lot of times that projects like this come down to one thing — the people behind it and that persistence," Cornette said.

Cornette praised Wallingford for investing in his own education and skill development long before the business became successful.

"Shane invested in him-

self early," Cornette said. "He had a vision and he did it."

Cornette said the success story provides an example for economic development efforts throughout the region.

"When we're working in economic development and trying to recruit folks to come here to our region, you point the way back to here," Cornette said. "Here's a success story to tell."

Attorney Scott McIntyre, a lifelong friend of Wallingford, also spoke about Wallingford's perseverance, leadership and willingness to think beyond traditional expectations.

"We can compete in this community with anybody in the world," McIntyre said.

Sen. Robin Webb praised Wallingford's work ethic and role as an ambassador for the region.

"We couldn't have a better guy as an ambassador for our county and our community and our region," Webb said.

State Rep. Patrick Flannery called the project a celebration of entrepreneurship and risk-taking.

"What we are seeing here today is the fruit of someone taking risks," Flannery said. "There were many sleepless nights and many times where they were asking, 'Is this worth it?' And they said yes."

The open house concluded with facility tours and lunch prepared by Harrison Events.

Follow the QR code or visit the web address for video from the full Economy Ball Mill open house: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Liuylo4h2jo&t=2752s>



Primary Election is Tuesday

By Dennis K. Brown

Lewis County voters will head to the polls Tuesday for the Primary Election, with several contests to be decided.

Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, and Lewis County voters may cast ballots at any of the county's four vote centers.

Voting locations include Garrison Elementary School, Laurel Elementary School, Lewis County Middle School and Tollesboro Elementary School.

Lewis County Clerk Leslie Collier said election officials have completed preparations for Tuesday's election and encouraged voters to make plans to participate.

"We encourage everyone to get out and vote," Collier said. "We appreciate all of the poll workers

and election officers who help make the election process run smoothly."

Collier also reminded voters that Kentucky law requires a driver's license or approved photo identification for in-person voting.

In-person early voting was held Thursday through Saturday on the third floor of the Lewis County Courthouse.

On the Republican ballot locally, voters will choose nominees for United States Senator, United States Representative in Congress, Lewis County Judge Executive, and Jailer.

Candidates in the Republican primary for Lewis County Judge Executive are incumbent George Sparks and Jonathan Ruggles.

Republican candidates for Lewis County Jailer are incumbent Bryon Keith Walker and Pamela May Smith.

Magistrate races will also appear on the ballot.

In the Second Magisterial District Republican primary, Paul Bruce Swearingen and incumbent Joseph McCann are seeking the nomination.

In the Third Magisterial District Republican primary, candidates include Teddy Bentley, Kathy E. Dillow and Ed Gayheart.

In the Fourth Magisterial District Republican primary, candidates are Derrick Butler, incumbent Mark A. Horsley and Rebecca L. Esham Zornes.

Democratic voters will select nominees for United States Senator and United States Representative in Congress.

Simon Kenton Bridge closed

By Dennis K. Brown

Those who use the Simon Kenton Memorial Bridge at Maysville should prepare for a long-term closure beginning Monday, May 18, as a major rehabilitation project gets underway on the historic suspension bridge.

The bridge, which carries US 62 across the Ohio River between Maysville and Aberdeen, Ohio, will be closed to all vehicle and pedestrian traffic throughout the duration of the project, which is expected to continue through the summer of 2027.

According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the closure is necessary to allow for re-

placement of all 136 suspension cables on the bridge. Officials said the work must be completed without additional weight on the structure, requiring a full closure for safety reasons.

Additional improvements planned during the project include concrete patching and repair work, overlay replacement on sections passing over the anchorage houses, replacement of the hand rope along the top of the bridge and other structural repairs.

The closure will be in effect 24 hours a day with no through traffic permitted. Message boards and traffic signs will be posted to alert motorists of the closure

and detour routes.

Drivers traveling between Kentucky and Ohio will need to use alternate routes during the project, including US 52, KY 8 and the William H. Harsha Bridge on US 68, located approximately three miles west of Maysville.

The project is being completed by Structural Technologies LLC under a \$22.6 million contract awarded by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Transportation officials said the improvements are designed to preserve the bridge for future generations while improving safety and extending the life of the structure for years to come.

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 "He continues to work hard for Lewis County."

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Mobile: (606)-922-6506 Email: mark.horsley@lewiscountky.gov
 PAID FOR BY MARK A. HORSLEY

From: LEVI CLARK, SUPERINTENDENT OF UTILITIES
Re: NOTICE OF SCHEDULED POWER OUTAGES THE FOR ENTIRE ELECTRIC PLANT BOARD OF THE CITY OF VANCEBURG ELECTRICITY CUSTOMERS

THERE WILL BE A SCHEDULED POWER OUTAGE FOR ALL ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS OF THE ELECTRIC PLANT BOARD OF THE CITY OF VANCEBURG AT APPROXIMATELY 11PM THE EVENING OF TUESDAY, MAY 26TH, 2026. THIS IS SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE, AND IS EXPECTED TO LAST FOR LESS THAN 2 HOURS.

Public Notice 20_21c