

From the Press Box

By Bill Tom Stone

The 2026 baseball and softball seasons for the state are in the books. The Sixteenth Region made it to the championship game in baseball, but Boyd County came up short against Trinity (Louisville) by a score of 12-0 in five innings.

Here locally, the Little League teams are working hard to prepare for the All-Star tournaments. The softball tournaments will begin on June 20. The 12U softball tournament will be held in Ashland, while the other divisions will play in Flemingsburg. On the baseball side, games will be played in Grayson beginning on June 27. I know the teams are still working on fundraising, so if you see a car wash or something on social media asking for donations, try your best to help.

On the high school scene, both the boys' and girls' basketball teams are involved in summer camps and playing a lot of games. Both Coach Sammy Holder and Coach Bret Wampler are pleased with the effort their teams are displaying.

As for LCHS football, Coach Dalton Stamm is working to get more players out for the team while preparing those already participating for the upcoming season. Coach Stamm is holding a parent meeting on June 18 at 8:00 p.m. to discuss expectations for the upcoming season. All high school sports are approaching the time of year known as the Dead Period. This runs from June 25 through July 9. During this time, there are restrictions on team practices, coach-athlete contact, and the use of school facilities.

This week is a big one for the Lewis County High Schools Athletic Hall of Fame. This coming Saturday, June 20, at 9:30 a.m. on WKKS, the 6th Hall of Fame Class will be announced. This is a tremendous honor for those elected to the Hall of Fame and a difficult decision for the committee responsible for selecting them.

As the organization's name reflects, the committee looks at the athletic history of all four high schools that have operated in Lewis County. Those schools are Vanceburg High School, Laurel High School, Tollesboro High School, and Lewis County High School. Although Lewis County High School absorbed the others through consolidation, each school has a rich athletic tradition, and the committee does its best to take that history into consideration.

So tune in this Saturday to find out who will be members of the 2026 Hall of Fame Class.

I thought this might be a good time to look back at the first five Hall of Fame classes. Here are the inductees from each class:

Class of 2021

- Alan Bane – THS
- Mort Bertram – LCHS
- Jim Bloomfield – LCHS
- Ralph Davis Jr. – VHS
- David Gaunce – LCHS
- Chris Harrison – THS
- Trayla Liles – LCHS
- Arthur "Corky" Prater – LCHS
- Eddie Scott – LCHS
- 1929 Vanceburg High School Girls Basketball Team – VHS
- 1983 Tollesboro High School Boys Basketball Team – THS

Class of 2022

- Gary Kidwell – LCHS
- Bob Bane – THS
- Stephanie Fraley – LCHS

Class of 2023

- John Lykins – VHS
- Glen McDaniel – LCHS
- Harold Billman – VHS
- Melissa Bloomfield English – LCHS
- Dennis Brown – LCHS
- Leland "Tiny" Roberts – LCHS

Class of 2024

- Bill Robinson – LCHS
- 1978 Football Team – LCHS
- Tanner Barton – LCHS
- Tyler Clark – LCHS
- Joe Hampton – LCHS
- Andy Plummer – LCHS
- Marty Voiers – THS
- 1977 LCHS Baseball Team – LCHS

Class of 2025

- Bob Wright – VHS
- Chad Dyer – LCHS
- James Mathewson – VHS
- Kenny Ruckel – LCHS
- Savannah Anderson – LCHS

Class of 2026

To be announced on June 20 at 9:30 a.m. during the Saturday Morning Sports Show on WKKS. Tune in and discover the next Hall of Fame class.

The Lionbackers special committee formed to select members for the LCHS Football Ring of Honor met last week and created a ballot for the committee to vote on for the inaugural class. We hope to have more details on the outcome of the vote by mid-July. Good luck to all the men who made the ballot, and good luck to the committee—this is not an easy task.

Legislative Update

State Representative Patrick Flannery



Kentucky's revenue growth shows smart tax reform and economic strength can go hand in hand

For years, critics have warned that reducing Kentucky's individual income tax would jeopardize the state's finances, threaten essential services, and leave future budgets on unstable footing.

Every time the General Assembly has taken steps to make Kentucky's tax structure more competitive, opponents – including the governor – have predicted declining revenues and budget shortfalls. The latest revenue numbers tell a very different story.

According to the Office of State Budget Director, Kentucky's General Fund receipts reached a historic milestone in April, totaling more than \$2 billion for the first time ever. Collections came in 15.2% higher than April of last year at \$2.013 billion, an increase of \$265.5 million.

That is not a small achievement. April is traditionally Kentucky's strongest revenue month because of tax filing deadlines, but even by those standards, this year's performance stands out. The increase pushed General Fund receipts to 1.7% growth through the first 10 months of Fiscal Year 2026, despite an official revenue estimate that projected a 1.3% decline for the year.

In practical terms, revenues could decline by more than 16% over the final two months of the fiscal year and still meet expectations.

The strongest growth came from Kentucky's largest revenue sources. Sales and use tax collections, business taxes, and individual income taxes combined to generate \$223 million more than they did in April 2025. Individual income tax net returns alone increased by nearly \$120 million compared to the same month last year.

These numbers matter because they directly challenge a narrative that has persisted throughout the legislature's efforts to reform our tax code. Opponents have repeatedly suggested that lowering the individual income tax would inevitably lead to budget shortfalls and fiscal instability. Yet, Kentucky continues to post strong revenue performance while simultaneously reducing the tax burden on workers, families, and job creators.

That outcome is not accidental. While we modernized taxes across the board to make them reflect today's marketplace and economy, the biggest results can be seen in the individual income tax – the tax paid by those who are working or have worked for their money. Since 2018, the legislature has cut the individual

income tax from 6% to 3.5%, and laid the groundwork for further cuts. It will not happen overnight, but it will happen when it should because our approach has been as intentional as it has been responsible. With the passage of HB 8 in 2022, we created conditions that must be met before any reduction in the individual income tax can take effect. Those triggers protect the necessary services and functions of government, while emphasizing responsible spending and investing. The goal is to create a tax structure that encourages investment, rewards work, attracts employers, and positions Kentucky to compete successfully with neighboring states.

The latest revenue report suggests that strategy is working. At the same time, it highlights the difference between carefully structured tax policy and short-term political gestures.

Recently, the governor released an executive order suspending a scheduled increase in the motor vehicle fuel tax (we usually call it the gas tax) and cutting it by 10 cents a gallon. That executive order is set to expire and he has called on local governments to request an extension. The governor continues to tell Kentuckians he is providing relief through reductions in the gas tax. In reality, the motor fuels tax is one of the least targeted ways to help Kentucky families because it only saves an estimated \$5 a month and even that benefit is shared equally by everyone who purchases fuel, including out-of-state motorists traveling through Kentucky. Meanwhile, the revenue generated by the gas tax is a primary source of funding for road maintenance, bridge repairs, transportation improvements, and highway safety projects.

Kentucky is giving the same tax break to drivers from Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, and beyond while reducing the resources available to invest in the infrastructure Kentuckians rely on every day. If the objective is relief for Kentucky families, there are more effective options. Direct tax relief tied to in-

come, work, and economic growth provides lasting benefits to Kentucky residents without undermining dedicated funding streams for transportation. Allow working families to keep more of what they earn without costing them more in the long run.

The contrast is clear. One approach focuses on careful planning, clear revenue tracking, and building a competitive economy with good-paying jobs. The other provides a small benefit that benefits people who do not even live in Kentucky while jeopardizing future investments in road safety and infrastructure.

As the fiscal year draws to a close on June 30, Kentucky's record-setting revenue performance offers strong evidence that the General Assembly's approach is working. Growth, investment, and disciplined fiscal management remain the most sustainable path to long-term prosperity—and Kentucky is proving it.

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.

Notice of Appointment

Administration has been granted by the Lewis District Court upon the Estate of Timothy Reynolds, whose address was 772 Gerike Dr., Vanceburg, KY 41179, and David Zachary Zornes, whose address is 240 Crooked Creek Rd., Vanceburg, KY 41179, was appointed Executor on May 18, 2026.

All creditors having claims against said estate are notified to present them to said David Zachary Zornes, at the address shown verified according to law, not later than six months after the last publication of this notice. Any person owing said estate should make payment to said David Zachary Zornes.

**Teresa Callahan, Clerk
Lewis Circuit & District Courts**

Jahn Presents Membership Plaque



LEWIS COUNTY HERALD
Lewis County Chamber Vice President Roger Jahn presents Chamber member Arco Ky Petro Stop with their custom membership plaque. Employee Desiree accepts on behalf of the owner.

Hayswood Grant Applications available

Herald Report

Hayswood Foundation is now accepting applications for grants to be awarded in the fall of this year. The deadline for submission is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2026. Application forms may be obtained from the Foundation's website, hayswood.org, as well as at the Foundation's office at 135 West Second Street, Suite 1A, Maysville. Application forms may also be requested by emailing hfound@att.net.

Hayswood grants are available to nonprofit organizations that promote educa-

tion, or provide mental or physical health services in a seven-county area including Bracken, Fleming, Lewis, Mason, and Robertson Counties in Kentucky, and Brown and Adams Counties in Ohio. Applying organizations must provide proof that they are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as being eligible to receive income tax deductible contributions from individuals. Preference will be given to organizations that qualify under Section

501(c)(3). Additional information on the submission and selection processes is

provided with the application form, and also available on the Foundation's website, hayswood.org.

THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

336 Lions Lane, Vanceburg, KY 41179

Phone 606-796-2331

Fax 606-796-2100

USPS #310880

email: heraldadvertising@yahoo.com

Dennis K. Brown, *Publisher*
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Subscription Rates:

- Lewis County - \$25.00 (tax included)
- All other KY counties - \$30.00 (tax included)
- All other states \$35.00 (tax included)
- Single Copy - \$1.00

Periodical Postage will be paid at Vanceburg, KY
LEWIS COUNTY HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

**Postmaster, send address corrections to:
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THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD is published weekly at
336 Lions Lane, Vanceburg, KY 41179

THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Garrison-Quincy KY-O-Heights Water District will retain a qualified engineering firm to provide planning, design, construction, and other required services for the Phase II AC Water Line Replacement Project. Funding sources for this project may include, but are not limited to, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program, and other applicable state and federal funding opportunities.

The District will accept Statements of Qualifications from engineering firms interested in providing services for this project until 4:30 p.m. E.T. / 3:30 p.m. C.T. on June 26, 2026. An RFQ packet containing project information and the criteria that will be used to select the engineering firm may be obtained at www.btadd.com or by contacting Kristie Dodge, Community Development Director, Buffalo Trace Area Development District, via email at kdodge@btadd.com.

Statements of Qualifications must be submitted to:

Buffalo Trace Area Development District
Attn: Kristie Dodge – Garrison-Quincy KY-O-Heights Water District Phase II AC Water Line Replacement Project
P.O. Box 460
Maysville, KY 41056

Statements of Qualifications will be ranked based on the written materials submitted, in accordance with the criteria outlined in the RFQ packet. The Garrison-Quincy KY-O-Heights Water District reserves the right to reject any and all submissions.

This solicitation for Statements of Qualifications is being conducted to fulfill state and federal funding agency procurement requirements. Respondents are advised that the following requirements may apply: (1) Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968; (2) Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; (3) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; (4) Executive Order 11246; and (5) Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities. All of these requirements may be incorporated into any contract issued pursuant to this solicitation.

The Garrison-Quincy KY-O-Heights Water District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages responses from all qualified firms.

Luke Bentley, Chairman
Garrison-Quincy KY-O-Heights Water District

Public Notice 23-25c

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

BENCHMARK FAMILY SERVICES - Benchmark Family Services is taking applications for foster parenting. As the largest private foster care agency in the state of Kentucky, we are able to provide our foster parents with an unmatched level of training, support, and financial reimbursement. To learn more about becoming a foster parent, please call 606-783-0268 or go to www.benchmarkfs.org.

BEGINNING AGAIN GROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Sunday at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 239 KY 59, Vanceburg.