



From the Press Box

By Bill Tom Stone

This week, we are going to switch things up a little as we get ready to enter that "black hole" known as the dead period. We will talk a little about this last week before all high school sports come to a stop for two weeks, and then I'm going to share a story I remember from my younger days playing football. First, let's look at the high school boys' and girls' basketball camps.

The girls finished their summer camps by hosting a one-day event at home on June 16 that included a few schools from around the area. They then participated in a tournament at Greenup called the "Border Wars," where our old buddy Kirk Ruggles hosted a group of schools from around the region. Coach Wampler is excited about what he sees and is looking forward to a great 2026-27 season.

As for the boys, they traveled to East Carter on Tuesday and Fairview on Friday to play multiple games. They will finish their summer league schedule on June 24 at Rowan County. The team is young but full of enthusiasm and willing to work hard. Coach Holder is proud of the effort the young men are displaying on the court and believes the home crowd will be pleasantly surprised by the product he puts on the floor this fall.

Football is wrapping up summer workouts and is still encouraging young men to come out and support their school and community. Football, more than any other sport, needs players of all shapes and sizes. Coach Stamm wants young men to know that it is never too late to start, so come out before the dead period begins. If you can't make it before then, practice will begin on July 10. Please contact him for more details.

The Little League Softball Tournament started on June 20. The 12U Softball Tournament is being held in Ashland, while the other divisions are playing in Flemingsburg. On the baseball side, the 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, please do your best to help.

The Lewis County High School Athletic Hall of Fame announced its 2026 class on the Saturday Morning Sports Show this past weekend. The new inductees are Mike Thoroughman, Emily Frye McCann, and Terry Lumpkins.

Mike Thoroughman played for Tollesboro from 1966-70 and scored 1,710 points during his career. He stands as the seventh-leading scorer in Tollesboro

High School history and holds the second-highest single-season total with 920 points during his senior year in 1970.

Mrs. Emily Frye McCann played from 2010-15 and was a dynamic part of three district championship teams during her career. Running the floor for the Lady Lions throughout much of her playing time, she competed with a calm yet fierce attitude that the team fed off of.

Finally, there is Mr. Terry Lumpkins. Terry was the Swiss Army knife of the Lewis County Lions football team in the early 1970s. Not only was he possibly the overall leading scorer in school history when you count rushing and receiving touchdowns, extra-point conversions, defensive touchdowns, and returns—some records have been lost to history—but he was also one of the best defensive players to ever wear a Lions uniform. It should also be noted that he played varsity football all four years for the Lions.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026. There will be a formal induction ceremony this winter during a basketball game.

Talking about those inductees has made me think a little about my own playing days. As some of you know, I also help with a newsletter for the football team known as the "Head-Lions." I'm going to share one of those stories from the newsletter and hope you enjoy it.

Memory of the View from the Top of the Hill

During the early years of football in Lewis County, the hill was part of our everyday workout. After each practice, we would gather for the coach's final words of wisdom and then hit the hill five to ten times, depending on the type of practice we had. Most of us hated the hill, but at the end of the day, the hill made us who we were. Very rarely did we give up in the fourth quarter, and when called upon to push a little harder, we had it in the tank thanks to the hill.

Later in life, the hill was replaced by metaphorical or symbolic hills—some greater than others—but all obstacles we had to overcome. For some, the hills have been bigger than for others, but all of us have had hills to climb and barriers to overcome. For me, the grit gained from those journeys up the hill after practice has helped shape my mindset to persevere through tough times.

Looking back, I have grown fond of the hill, or at least the memories of it. I still remember the feeling of accomplishment that came from reaching the top on that final trip and looking back over the field. I still get that same feeling

whenever I finish a job that I have worked hard to complete.

However, this story is really about the time I looked down from the hill and saw something that made me think again.

It was during the early practices of my junior year, and Coach Robinson was running us pretty hard. We only had seven seniors on the team, and the coach knew we were going to have some long games without many reserves to help out, so he was determined to have us in shape.

At the end of practice, as was his custom, he had us run the hill to finish up. After the final sprint up the hill, my best friend and I were kneeling down trying to catch our breath when we noticed something strange from our vantage point.

One of our seniors had made his way back down the hill and was beginning to run the old dirt track around our practice field, which is now the track surrounding our football field.

My first thought was, "He is crazy."

I looked over at my friend, and we both started smiling. It only took a minute before we joined him in that crazy venture. We ran about half a mile before finally heading back to the locker room.

But here's the crazy part. The next day, after running the hill, nearly half the team caught their breath and then followed that senior down to the track. You can bet that no record times were being clocked, but bonds were being built.

Looking back, I still remember those guys and the fun we had. I remember the happy and sad times, the fun and the hard work, and the lessons that are still called upon from time to time.

The lesson I learned on that hot late-summer day has always stayed with me: no matter what you have accomplished, there is always more to do. You can always be better, so never stop improving.

Cam Newton once said before a Super Bowl that if you show him a good loser, he would show you a loser.

Well, guys, he was wrong.

A good loser is simply someone who is still trying to overcome obstacles with the right frame of mind. But show me a quitter, and then you have someone who becomes a loser—if nowhere else, at least in his own mind.

So, the view from the hilltop is good, but the journey is not finished. We can always keep improving and getting better. As we grow older, our goals change, but the determination we learn in our youth is a tool that will always be needed.

Keep striving to do your best, and Roll Pride!!!

Legislative Update

State Representative Patrick Flannery



Lawmakers discuss public safety initiatives and law enforcement priorities during interim

The Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary met on June 9 to hear from Attorney General Russell Coleman and the Kentucky State Police (KSP) on public safety initiatives, law enforcement priorities, and ongoing efforts to protect Kentucky communities.

Coleman highlighted his office's commitment to enforcing laws passed by the General Assembly, defending the Constitution, protecting seniors from scams, and supporting law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth.

Through the Body Armor Grants Program created by the legislature, the attorney general is able to help law enforcement and first responders purchase body armor, duty weapons, ammunition, electronic-control devices, and body-worn cameras.

The program purchases protective equipment for Kentucky Law Enforcement Council (KLEC)-certified peace officers. Applications for soft body armor take precedence and any armor purchased through this grant program is assigned to the officer specifically named in the application and will remain assigned to that officer for the duration of its five year life cycle.

Coleman shared that the role of the attorney general has shifted significantly in recent years, moving from frequent legal disputes with the federal government to increasing collaboration. He also provided an update on efforts to combat violent crime, including the creation of the office's first Louisville-based unit dedicated to targeting violent offenders. In addition, a new digital forensics lab in western Kentucky is being developed to address a significant gap in forensic investigative resources in that region.

Addressing criminal justice issues, Coleman reiterated his support for implementing the state's death penalty laws and thanked lawmakers who supported legislation aimed at aligning Kentucky's laws with those of other states.

Additionally, he highlighted encouraging progress in the fight against addiction, noting that Kentucky recorded its lowest overdose death total since 2014. Through the Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, more than \$34 million in settlement funds have been awarded to more than a hundred organizations focused on prevention, treatment, recovery, and support services.

Earlier this year, the commission approved \$5.78 million in funding for Kentucky's first ever statewide youth drug prevention effort called Better

Without It. Better Without It is about meeting young people where they are by engaging with social media influencers and recognizing the importance of spreading the drug prevention message directly to them.

Kentucky State Police Commissioner Phillip Burnett, Jr. shared an update on KSP operations and ongoing recruitment efforts. KSP currently operates 16 posts across the Commonwealth and continues to provide critical support to local law enforcement agencies. The agency remains one of only two law enforcement organizations in Kentucky with a full-time Critical Response Team and maintains partnerships with federal agencies, including the FBI and ATF, through task force assignments aimed at combating violent crime and drug trafficking.

The commissioner emphasized the importance of recruitment and retention in an increasingly competitive market. While law enforcement agencies nationwide continue to face staffing challenges, KSP has seen strong interest in its latest cadet class, which began with more than 500 applicants. The agency has worked with the legislature to improve recruitment through competitive pay and benefits, as well as providing travel reimbursements for academy participants, and efforts to provide greater certainty regarding post assignments after graduation.

He also discussed investments made possible through support from the General Assembly, including upgraded protective equipment for troopers, construction of a new skills training pad at the KSP Academy, and plans to replace aging facilities in Harlan and Richmond.

Staffing shortages in telecommunications have improved significantly due to competitive pay increases, and one of the largest recent telecommunication academies graduated 22 new employees.

Drug trafficking remains a major focus for KSP, with 1,625 drug-related arrests made between January and

April of this year. The commissioner also noted that the impact of drug abuse reaches every demographic, from youth to senior citizens, making enforcement and prevention efforts critical statewide priorities.

Additional updates KSP shared are plans to expand driver's testing services through Saturday testing events and the addition of three new testing facilities. KSP also continues strategic planning efforts for its laboratory system while working to address staffing shortages that have contributed to delays in sexual assault kit testing. The backlog as of this week stands at 673 sexual assault test kits.

Committee members highlighted the continued partnership between state agencies and the General Assembly in addressing public safety, supporting law enforcement, combating addiction, and ensuring access to essential services throughout the Commonwealth.

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 the Filing of a Final Settlement

Pursuant to KRS 395.625, notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of June 2026, a final settlement was filed by Angelica Tanner, Administratrix of the Estate of Sandra Lee Bloomfield, deceased.

A hearing will be held on said final settlement at 9:00 a.m. on July 14, 2026. Exceptions to said final settlement must be filed before said hearing.

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

**THE LEWIS
COUNTY HERALD**
"That's Where
You'll Find It!"

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH - Will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Lewis County Health Department on Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

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.

Get texts of Lewis County breaking news, school closings and severe weather notices on your cellular phone.

Text "lewiscounty" to 78015.

THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

336 Lions Lane, Vanceburg, KY 41179

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*
Patricia Bloomfield, *Composition*
Angela Clary, *Composition*
Wade Lykins, *Composition*



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:
336 Lions Lane, Vanceburg, KY 41179**

ALL ARTICLES, PHOTOS AND ADVERTISING SHOULD BE IN THE HERALD OFFICE BY FRIDAY AT NOON. Advertisers should check their ad the first time it runs. THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD shall not be liable for failure to publish an advertisement or for a typographical error(s) in the publication except the extent of the cost of the ad for the first insertion. Adjustments for error(s) will be limited to the cost of that portion to the ad wherein the error(s) occurred.

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.