

# Vanceburg Lions Club

By Bill Tom Stone



## Vanceburg Lions Club Holds Regular Meeting and Family Night on June 18

The Vanceburg Lions Club held its regular meeting on June 18 at the Black Oak Volunteer Fire Department. This meeting also served as Family Night for members and their families, as well as an opportunity to recognize new members and install officers for the upcoming year.

President Lion David Lucas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with Lion Austin Evans leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and Lion Austin Rucker giving the prayer. President Lucas welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the club then recessed for a meal and a time of fellowship. The meal was catered by Mr. Kevin Cornett, and everyone enjoyed the evening.

President Lucas called the

meeting back to order and provided an update on the Lions Softball Tournament, which will be held on July 18 at the Lewis County High School Softball Complex. The tournament is called "Bases Loaded for Diabetes Relief." Lion David encouraged everyone to spread the word and expressed hopes for a large crowd at the games.

Lion Kenny Ruckel informed the members that he had raffle tickets available for the upcoming Fourth of July Festival and encouraged everyone to see him before the meeting concluded to purchase tickets.

After President Lucas completed the club's regular business, he introduced Past District Governor and fellow Tollesboro Lions Club member, Mr. Steven Pedersen, to install the officers for the 2026-2027 Lions Club year. Lion Steve

shared several insightful remarks about the responsibilities and rewards of being a Lions Club officer and member before installing the officers who were present.

The officers for the upcoming year are:

- President - Austin Rucker
- First Vice President & Marketing Chairman - Sammy Holder
- Second Vice President - Bret Wampler
- Secretary & Club LCIF Coordinator - Austin Evans
- Treasurer - David Lucas
- One-Year Director - Jim Willis
- One-Year Director - Mike Edington
- Two-Year Director - Kenny Ruckel
- Two-Year Director - Bryan Wright
- Membership Chairman - Bill Tom Stone
- Club Services Chairper-

son - Gage Yates

- Lion Tamer - George Hughes
- Tail Twister - Nathaniel "Nate" Stone

Lion Steve Pedersen then recognized the club's newest members and called them forward to receive a charge about what it means to be a Lion. Each member listened attentively as Lion Pedersen spoke about the opportunity to serve their community, not only as individuals but as part of a group of dedicated men working together for a common cause—to make their community a better place to live and raise a family.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned as the first official act of Lion Austin Rucker's term as president.

The next meeting will be held on July 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Black Oak Volunteer Fire Department.



Pictured from left to right front row: Bryan Wright, Mike Edington, Gage Yates, Austin Evans, Austin Rucker, David Lucas, Bill Tom Stone, Jim Willis, Kenny Ruckel; left to right back row: Steve Pedersen, Roger Jahn, Cary Cagle, Derrick Butler, Nate Stone, George Hughes, Mike Johnson, Brennan Lucas, and Kody Willis.

# Priced Out of the Game

By Tommy Druen

Having a teenage son has taught me many things. One uncomfortable truth I've learned is that when he's shopping for clothes, I need to find a way to kill time. He can agonize over the most minute details—sizes, colors, patterns—and the clock seems to stop entirely once he disappears into a fitting room.

The other day, he was shopping at a nearby sporting goods store. In the interest of impartiality, I'll leave it anonymous. But let's just say it's the kind of place that becomes a risky Google search if you forget the apostrophe in its name.

While my son agonizingly debated whether he wanted a fishing shirt with a hood or without one, I wandered through the rest of the store and found myself in the baseball section. The inventory itself didn't surprise me, but the price tags sure did. I picked up what looked like an ordinary youth mitt and nearly dropped it when I saw the sticker price: \$329. Thinking it had to be some kind of premium model, I checked others nearby. Out of about ten options, the cheapest was \$189.

That's when I started doing the math. What does it actually cost to outfit a kid for baseball these days? Bats ran about the same price as mitts. Cleats were roughly half that. Batting helmets hovered around \$75, and batting gloves were another \$50. Even assuming the team provides uniforms, you're looking at a minimum of \$750 just to get a kid on the field.

I couldn't shake those numbers as I kept walking. I didn't even stop in the football and soccer sections. I'm sure those numbers would have been just as sobering. But when I reached the basketball aisle, I felt a small moment of hope. Surely basketball—the sport that needs almost nothing but a ball and a hoop—would break this pattern of astronomical prices.

Then I picked up a ball. Granted, it was top-of-the-line, but the price was \$229. Even the mid-range options routinely hit \$100. And we all know basketball shoes aren't exactly cheap.

But this doesn't even touch the travel-team culture that's exploded over the last decade. Team fees, hotel rooms, tournament admissions, parking passes—it adds up fast. I recently shelled out \$40 per day just to watch my daughter and her 11-year-old teammates play volleyball for a weekend.

That's when the reality hit me. In chasing opportunities and better equipment, we've effectively priced entire segments of the population out of youth sports altogether.

I've heard the nostalgia expressed often enough that it rings true. Baseball was better when kids played for the local American Legion in sweatpants and a T-shirt, competing against neighbors rather than traveling to corporate-sponsored tournaments while wearing expensive gear. That argument likely has some merit.

I looked into the research and found some revealing

numbers. Youth sports participation overall has climbed over the decades, though much of that growth reflects expanded opportunities for girls. The economic data, however, paints a starkly different picture. According to 2022 figures, 70% of children from families earning more than four times the poverty level play organized sports. Meanwhile, only 31% of children from families below the poverty line do.

Certainly, other factors contribute to that gap. Transportation challenges matter. The reality that many teenagers must work to help support their families matters. But I'd wager that a lot of it comes down to simple affordability.

What troubles me most gets at the core contradiction. Sports have always held a special place in American life because they promised meritocracy. They're supposed to be the one arena where your background doesn't matter, where connections and family income are irrelevant.

Theoretically, winning depends solely on who performs best.

But somewhere along the way, we've turned that promise on its head. We've created a system where the starting line isn't the same for everyone, where talent alone isn't enough if you can't afford the entry fee. The child born into a wealthy family gets the opportunity to discover whether he has genuine talent. The child born into poverty may never even get that chance.

We tell ourselves we're investing in our children's futures, and perhaps we are—for those who can afford it. But we're constructing barriers around the very institution we claim should transcend privilege and economic status. We're undermining the fundamental promise that talent and hard work matter more than family wealth. That's not the American ideal we've long celebrated in sports. And honestly, I'm not certain it's a game worth playing.

# Treasures

by Wilma Erwin

We were doing some work here in the yard. Everything was in need of a refresh. Our granddaughter, Kasey, was putting down stone when she found a snail, complete with its shell.

Being me, I looked up "snail" in the Bible. Yes, there were two verses:

1 Leviticus 11:29-30 — "These also shall be unclean unto you among the creeping things that creep upon the earth: the weasel, and the mouse, and the tortoise after his kind, and the ferret, and the chameleon, and the lizard, and the snail, and the mole."

2 Psalm 58:8 — "As a snail which melteth, let every one of them pass away: like the untimely birth of a woman, that they may not see the sun."

So, I learned quickly that God did not create the snail as part of our food source in the beginning. He named it among the unclean creatures. Of course, He later advised Peter to call nothing He created common or unclean. Peter's lesson, though it involved unclean animals, was meant to guide him into

understanding that Gentiles were to be saved the same as Jews if they repented, were converted, and accepted Jesus as Lord.

But the psalmist told us that the snail melts and passes away. Research quickly informed me that a snail needs its shell to retain moisture. Without the protection of its shell, it loses moisture and appears to melt away. Some people are even cruel enough to pour salt on the lowly snail and watch it perish from dehydration.

The psalmist then teaches us that the melting snail is like the untimely birth of a woman—a child not born to live and see the sun. The snail simply is gone, leaving a moist trail behind.

This made me think of those who do not get in Christ. They do not come under Jesus' blood, protection, and fellowship. They are exposed to this world, and it quickly melts them into sin, leaving a trail behind. I am glad I know Jesus and strive to remain in Him. He keeps me alive in both body and spirit.

Blessings on dwelling in the protection of Jesus.

# Chaos and Turmoil

By Freddy Stamm

This could be a follow-up to "What Happened to the Country I Grew Up With?" I am overwhelmed with daily struggles and personal challenges, but we win in the end! God wins in the end.

I am also overwhelmed with all the many charities that keep needing money from me. I heard someone the other day use the word insolvent. I believe it was in reference to the federal government, perhaps the U.S. Treasury. Well, in a way, I could be considered insolvent myself. There are times when it seems like the federal government is not very interested in helping senior citizens who are somewhat disabled and living on a very limited fixed income.

Even some newstalk radio hosts are reporting that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. Skipping lunch at times just to make ends meet and paying bills that keep going up.

There is so much chaos,

turmoil, and uncertainty around us, and I should not have to remind anyone of that. However, we can have assurance and confidence in God. See Isaiah 26:3 and 1 John 5:14-15.

For some time now, I and many others have been praying for lasting peace in the Middle East. See Psalm 122:6 and Genesis 12:3. But I heard someone say that some leaders in the Middle East are like ostriches—they have their heads buried in the sand, and there is certainly a lot of sand in the Middle East.

I figure that one of these days I'm going to drop dead—and it may be sooner rather than later—I'll be through with these earthly concerns, chaos, turmoil, and uncertainty. Praise the Lord!

Christians, keep the faith! Christians also have to go through times of pestilence (Matthew 24:7) and financial hardship (Mark 13:8), but we do win in the end!



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Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Court of Justice  
**LEWIS CIRCUIT COURT**  
Civil Action No. 26-CI-00012

US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
and  
AMBER POLLITT, ET AL.

PLAINTIFF  
and  
DEFENDANTS

**NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE**

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Lewis Circuit Court on June 9, 2026, to raise the sum of \$66,256.53, plus interest, fees and costs, I will expose for sale to the highest and best bidder, at the Lewis County Courthouse, 112 Second Street, Vanceburg, Kentucky, 41179, on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., the following property:

Real Estate located at, 44 Elliott Lane, Tollesboro, KY 41189 and identified as Lewis Co. P.V.A. Parcel No.: 030-00-0-040.02. The land is more particularly described in the record of this action located in the office of the Lewis Circuit Court Clerk, where it can be reviewed upon request.

Terms of the sale are as follows: (A) At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. In the event the successful bidder elects to credit the balance, said bidder shall post bond with surety acceptable to the Master Commissioner and pre-approved by the Master Commissioner at least by noon, two (2) business days before the sale date, as security for the unpaid purchase price, bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale. The surety must be present at the sale and must own real estate in Kentucky, but may not be the successful bidder's spouse. A lien shall be retained by the Commissioner as security for the purchase price; (B) The purchaser shall assume and pay all taxes and assessments for the current fiscal year. (C) All other delinquent taxes and assessments for previous years shall be paid from the sale proceeds if properly claimed in writing and filed of record by the purchaser within ten (10) days from the date of sale; (D) If a successful bid is less than two-thirds of the appraised value, the defendant shall retain a right of redemption for six months from the date of sale; the purchaser shall receive an immediate writ of possession and a deed containing a lien in favor of the defendant reflecting the defendant's right of redemption. KRS 426.530; (E) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Lewis County Clerk's Office, and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the Defendant(s); (F) For more particulars, reference is made to the records of the Lewis Circuit Clerk; (G) Bidders are advised to obtain a title examination; (H) Exceptions must be filed not later than ten (10) days following the filing of the Commissioner's Report of Sale; (I) Risk of loss for the subject property shall pass to the purchaser on the date of sale, and possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price and delivery of deed.

CLAYTON G. LYKINS, JR.  
MASTER COMMISSIONER  
P.O. BOX 160, VANCEBURG, KY 41179  
TELEPHONE: 606/796-2531

Public Notice 25-27c

Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Court of Justice  
**LEWIS CIRCUIT COURT**  
Civil Action No. 26-CI-00017

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC  
and  
JUSTIN R. ROYSTER, ET AL.

PLAINTIFF  
and  
DEFENDANTS

**NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE**

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Lewis Circuit Court on June 9, 2026, to raise the sum of \$176,876.08, plus interest, fees and costs, I will expose for sale to the highest and best bidder, at the Lewis County Courthouse, 112 Second Street, Vanceburg, Kentucky, 41179, on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., the following property:

Real Estate located at, 181 Shawnee Drive, Vanceburg, KY 41179 and identified as Lewis Co. P.V.A. Parcel No.: 099-90-01-036.00. The land is more particularly described in the record of this action located in the office of the Lewis Circuit Court Clerk, where it can be reviewed upon request.

Terms of the sale are as follows: (A) At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. In the event the successful bidder elects to credit the balance, said bidder shall post bond with surety acceptable to the Master Commissioner and pre-approved by the Master Commissioner at least by noon, two (2) business days before the sale date, as security for the unpaid purchase price, bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale. The surety must be present at the sale and must own real estate in Kentucky, but may not be the successful bidder's spouse. A lien shall be retained by the Commissioner as security for the purchase price; (B) The purchaser shall assume and pay all taxes and assessments for the current fiscal year. (C) All other delinquent taxes and assessments for previous years shall be paid from the sale proceeds if properly claimed in writing and filed of record by the purchaser within ten (10) days from the date of sale; (D) If a successful bid is less than two-thirds of the appraised value, the defendant shall retain a right of redemption for six months from the date of sale; the purchaser shall receive an immediate writ of possession and a deed containing a lien in favor of the defendant reflecting the defendant's right of redemption. KRS 426.530; (E) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Lewis County Clerk's Office, and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the Defendant(s); (F) For more particulars, reference is made to the records of the Lewis Circuit Clerk; (G) Bidders are advised to obtain a title examination; (H) Exceptions must be filed not later than ten (10) days following the filing of the Commissioner's Report of Sale; (I) Risk of loss for the subject property shall pass to the purchaser on the date of sale, and possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price and delivery of deed.

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