

From the Press Box

By Bill Tom Stone

The “Dead Period” is over, and with that coming to an end, LCHS Fall sports start back up in full swing. However, they are just starting up, and we have very little to talk about other than encouraging young people to come out and be a part of something great, a team. I know that the concept of teamwork is becoming less and less advantageous as we shrink into our electronic devices and pretend we are islands, standing alone. However, I remember the song we used to sing at graduation back in the day based on a seventeenth-century poem by John Donne, and the truth is, “no man is an island, and no man stands alone, each man’s joy is joy to me, each man’s grief is my own” as the song would go. Well, as I get a little older, these words ring a little truer, and being part of a team reinforces this concept. As a team, you learn to depend on your teammate, you learn to sacrifice your glory for the good of the team, and you learn that the main objectives aren’t about your success, but the success of the team. So why don’t we, as parents and grandparents, encourage our children to join a team? I’m not sure, but I think we are doing them a disservice.



LEWIS COUNTY HERALD
Back row: Donnie Gaunce, Jim Glass, Gary Kidwell;
Kneeing: Nick Diachenko and Mike Edington.

Now I’m going to go down a little history trail about how football came back to Lewis County High School after going dormant from 1942. Some of this is based on recorded history and some on oral history, and the truth is, I’m not going to get it completely correct, but it will be as close as most of us can get. Now, in 1967, the Lewis County School Board hired Mr. Foster “Sid” Meade as the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Meade was a true sports enthusiast and had spent many years as an official in basketball and baseball. He loved

sports and felt that they taught young people lessons that academics alone could not convey.

Gary Kidwell would tell me a story about Mr. Meade calling him into his office and asking him to help restart the football program, as he had been an assistant coach at MMI and was familiar with the game and what was needed to get things going. Mr. Kidwell did just that, starting to get other school staff to help and administrators, like Paul Westerfield, to buy in. But the truth was that the ship’s captain, Mr. Meade, had bought in and was using his connections in the state to find us an experienced head coach who could put a team together. That search ended with the hiring of Nick Diachenko. Coach Diachenko was an experienced coach who had led the 1957 Jenkins Cavaliers to an undefeated season and an Eastern Kentucky Mountain Conference Championship. It was with this team of seasoned leaders and enthusiastic young staff that Lewis County would restart the program.

Our first season would be a Junior Varsity schedule only, but to those who played in the Fall of 1968, they were the pioneers, bravely going where

maybe tell you some of the stories I’ve heard over the years, and remind you of some of the characters who have impacted the game in Lewis County. We will start with the seventies next week.

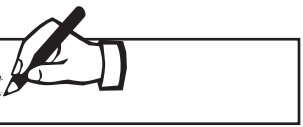
Now some BTs Tidbits: The Football “Ring of Honor” first class has been chosen and will be announced before the first football game of the season. We would like to thank the members of this committee. It should be noted that over 70 names were discussed, and over 20 names were on the final ballot for selection. Some great players were not selected for the first class, but that means we will have some great classes in the future.

Football will once again host the “Yard Line Sale” as a fundraiser for the team. The gist is that you pay \$25 and you are given a random yard line on the field for the season. If the ball is on that yard line at the end of the first and third quarters, you win some money. There are only 99 numbers, so get yours soon.

To quote Coach Kidwell, a future athlete was born to Nate and Montana McCoy Stone. Her name is Elizabeth Louise Stone. The Grandparents, Bill, Tom, and Beth Stone, and Missy, Tony Lanza, and Phil McCoy, are excited, and her three big sisters, Sylvie, Heidi, and Landrie, can’t wait to make her feel at home. Congratulations.

Mark your calendar for Friday, July 31st, for the Third Annual Meet the Lions night. It is a great night for fun and to meet all the young students who represent your community. It will include the Band of Pride, Volleyball, Golf, Cheerleading, Football, and many others. This is a great time to show your support, grab a quick bite, and have some fun.

Until next week, keep encouraging our young people to become active in their schools and community. They are the leaders of tomorrow. Remind them that we learn not only by looking at electronic devices but also by interacting with our fellow humans and understanding the miles they have walked. Unless we do this, they will only see their point of view, and understanding and compassion will slowly start to vanish from our culture.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

We hope everyone enjoyed the Vanceburg July Jubilee and the Fireworks Display on July 3rd and July 4th, 2026. A lot of planning and hard work went into this Celebration. We would like to thank the following people: Vanceburg City Street Employees, Vanceburg Police Dept. officers, Vanceburg Fire Dept. Firemen, for their help before and after the fireworks. The following organizations, businesses and people were responsible for this event being a success: City Of Vanceburg, Superior Composites Co. LLC, Coroplast, Gaydos Funeral Home, McDonald’s, Trace Creek Construction, Super Quik, Ideal Wheels, Farmers Cooperative Insurance, Vanceburg Electric Plant Board, V.F.W., Vanceburg Hills Nursing Home, Vanceburg Lions Club, Howe Farm Supply, Dickerson/ Globe Funeral Home.

First Guaranty Bank, Tram Construction Inc., Lewis County Pawn, Pinnacle Bank, Vanceburg Primary Plus, T&K Insurance, Bethesda Assembly of God Inc., Richard Howerton Engineering, Skeeter Shaw, Duke Dunnigan, KY 08 Towing, Steve Applegate, Tire World, Ginn Services, Vanceburg Save A Lot, D&F Building Supplies, G & H Towing, Vanceburg Food Mart, Liberty Insurance, WKKS, Lewis County Herald, John Clark Oil, Richard Wajie, Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, Riverbend Pub

and Grill, Valley Motors, Chris Elam Insurance, Woodmen of the World, Bob and Judy Craycraft, Treasure Paws, Sunset Rental of New Boston, Richard Evans, Lionel Cooper, Garrison Shortstop, Tom Bertram, Peoples Bank of Ohio, Eric and Andrea Bloomfield, Kenny Ruckel, Ben and Leslie Collier, Stephen McGinnis, April Ruark, Greta May, Taylor Ruark, Tara Roberts, Alex Miller, Joe Paul Gilbert, and

Joe Billman, Journey’s Jumpy’s, Jason and Jessica Bryant.

Thanks to Lewis County Shooting Sports for their help with the 5K Run and Lewis County Sheriff’s office for use of their golf carts.

If we forgot anyone, we apologize and again, we would like to thank everyone for their help and hard work during this event.

Thank you,
July Jubilee Committee

THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

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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.

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Legislative Update

State Representative Patrick Flannery



A glance at Kentucky’s billion-dollar tourism industry

Kentucky’s tourism industry continues to be one of the Commonwealth’s strongest economic success stories. Throughout the 2020s, tourism has experienced remarkable momentum, with 2025 marking the state’s fourth consecutive year of record-breaking growth. The industry not only showcases Kentucky’s natural beauty, history, culture, and hospitality to millions of visitors each year, but it also serves as a powerful economic engine that supports communities in every corner of the Commonwealth.

Behind these record-setting numbers are the hard-working men and women employed throughout Kentucky’s tourism and hospitality industry. From hotel staff, restaurant employees, tour guides, and park rangers to distillery workers, retail merchants, event organizers, outfitters, and countless small business owners, these Kentuckians create the welcoming experiences that keep visitors coming back year after year. Their dedication helps strengthen local economies while preserving the unique character of Kentucky’s communities.

Tourism is especially important for many small businesses, which rely on visitor spending to grow and create jobs. Family-owned restaurants, locally owned shops, bed-and-breakfasts, outdoor recreation businesses, artisan markets, entertainment venues, and family attractions all benefit when travelers choose Kentucky as their destination. In many rural communities, tourism provides opportunities for economic development that might not otherwise exist.

A comprehensive analysis of visitor spending measures tourism’s impact on businesses, employment, personal income, and state and local tax revenues. The findings underscore just how significant the industry has become.

In 2025, approximately 81.1 million visitors traveled to Kentucky, spending \$10.4 billion throughout the Commonwealth. That spending generated a total economic impact of \$14.6 billion, benefiting businesses and communities across the state.

Visitor spending was concentrated in several major sectors:

- Food and Beverage (\$2.7 billion): Dining remained the largest category, accounting for 26 percent of

all visitor spending.

- Lodging (\$2.4 billion): Hotels, cabins, campgrounds, and vacation rentals represented 23 percent of visitor expenditures.

- Transportation (\$2 billion) and Retail (\$1.9 billion): Visitors invested heavily in transportation while traveling across Kentucky and purchased locally made products, crafts, and souvenirs unique to the Commonwealth.

- Recreation and Entertainment (\$1.4 billion): While the smallest spending category, recreation and entertainment experienced the fastest year-over-year growth, increasing by 5.6 percent.

Although international visitation declined by 13.9 percent in 2025, Kentucky’s growing popularity among domestic travelers more than offset that decrease. The Commonwealth welcomed 81.1 million domestic visitors, an increase of 1.1 million over the previous year.

Much of this growth reflects travelers’ increasing desire for authentic experiences. Kentucky offers an unmatched combination of outdoor adventure, rich history, culture, and hospitality. Visitors come to explore Mammoth Cave National Park, hike the trails of Red River Gorge, experience the state’s world-renowned bourbon industry, attend horse racing and equestrian events, enjoy festivals and live music, visit historic downtowns, discover museums and cultural attractions, fish and boat on Kentucky’s lakes and rivers, and explore the Commonwealth’s award-winning state parks.

The economic impact of tourism can be viewed in three ways:

- Direct impacts: Visitor

purchases of goods and services, such as lodging, dining, retail, and attractions.

- Indirect impacts: Businesses serving visitors purchase goods and services from suppliers, creating economic activity throughout the supply chain.

- Induced impacts: Employees supported by tourism spend their wages within their communities, generating additional economic activity across the local economy.

The benefits of a thriving tourism industry extend well beyond the visitors themselves. In 2025, tourism supported 96,993 jobs across Kentucky, providing employment opportunities in communities large and small.

Visitor spending also generated approximately \$1.1 billion in state and local tax revenue. Without that revenue, every Kentucky household would need to contribute an additional \$581 annually to maintain current levels of public services and local government operations.

Kentucky’s tourism industry demonstrates that investing in the Commonwealth’s people, places, and unique experiences benefits everyone. As visitor interest continues to grow, tourism will remain an important driver of job creation, small business success, economic development, and quality of life for communities across Kentucky.

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.

BID NOTICE:

The Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg will accept sealed bids on the following equipment:

1989 Ford K84 Digger Truck.

Can be driven at the time of the ad posting. Boom/digger equipment not functional due to major hydraulic leaks. Sold as-is, with heavy usage, must be picked up at the EPB office in Vanceburg, KY. Photos are on the EPB Facebook account.

Bids must be received by July 24th 2026 at 5:00 p.m. and can be delivered or mailed to:

ATTN: Equipment Bids
Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg
191 Front Street
Vanceburg, KY 41179

Faxed bids can also be sent to 606-796-6311 or emailed to EPB_Levi_Clark@hotmail.com. If you have any questions, call Levi Clark at 606-796-2641 or email EPB_Levi_Clark@hotmail.com.

Public Notice 27,28c

ELECTRIC LINEMAN

Company:	Electric Plant Board	Location:	Vanceburg, KY 41179
Status:	Full Time, Employee	Job Category:	Utility
Industry:	Electric Lineman	Relevant Work Experience:	2 to 5+ Years Preferred
Career Level:	Experienced		

ELECTRIC LINEMAN

We are currently seeking a highly motivated Electric Lineman.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

- Pay Compensation Based on Qualifications and Experience.
- Health Insurance Coverage.
- Full Vacation, Holiday and Sick Days.

QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE:

- Minimum of 2-5+ years experience as an Electric Lineman preferred.
- Must have working knowledge of standard equipment used in installation, operation and maintenance repair for all types of facilities associated with the Electric Transmission and Distribution System.
- Must react appropriately in emergency situations.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, demanding, productive team-oriented environment.
- Good communication and customer skills (must be professional and courteous).
- Communicate in a direct and respectful manner with internal resources.
- Must pass a drug test and agree to a background and credit check.
- Organized, self-motivated, with ability to work independently.
- Demonstrate the highest ethical and professional standards.
- Ability to multi-task and adjust to changing priorities.
- Must have experience in a fast paced environment.
- Be a team player with a positive “can-do” attitude.
- Must be honest and dependable.
- Technical and detail oriented.
- Work well under pressure.
- High school diploma or GED required.
- Must have valid Kentucky Driver’s License. Commercial Driver’s License preferred.

RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Perform regularly scheduled distribution system operation and maintenance activities.
- Maintain adequate operation and maintenance records.
- Read, test and repair meters.
- Repair all electric transmission and distribution facilities as needed.
- Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the electric line foreman.

TO APPLY:

To respond to this opportunity, please mail or drop off all resumes for the following address:

ELECTRIC PLANT BOARD
191 FRONT STREET, PO BOX 489
VANCEBURG, KY 41179

Applications must be received by our office no later than Friday, July 24, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. (Standard Work Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg is an Equal Opportunity Employer.