

## From the Press Box

By Bill Tom Stone

This week's article is going to look like a planner schedule with a ton of upcoming events for all the local fall organizations that I know about at LCHS. However, I will end the article with some more football history. I hope that you guys are enjoying this history as much as I like digging it up. The crazy thing is, the more I dig, the crazier it becomes. So much so that I'm going to try to explain the evolution of the Kentucky football playoffs in a later column, but that story will need to wait until a later date. Now, to the next few weeks ahead.

We will start with the LCHS Band of Pride and the upcoming Band Camp. The members are coming off a hard week of work at the Tollesboro Lions Club Fair Food Booth, and as the old saying goes, "They are jumping out of the skillet into the fire" with Band Camp. Ms. Erin Choi will kick off Band Camp on July 27 at 9:00 a.m.

The football team continues to work with around 30 players out so far. Coach Stamm is still willing to work with guys who haven't been able to make it out so far this year. He told me that he feels like a preacher during a revival—even if only a few come, it is still a win. I couldn't agree with him more. Maybe the first is a LITTLE MORE important, but I get the comparison. During this week, they will be practicing each day from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and hosting the "Meet the Lions Fall Kickoff" night on July 31 at the Lewis County High School football field. Gates will open around 4:30, with the main events starting around 6:00. This is not only a football event but a fall sports event. There will be the band, volleyball, golf, cheerleading, JROTC, and other groups. Come out and support the kids and grab a bite at the concession stand.

The football team will be

our size only have a radius of 10 miles or less for their student population. We in Lewis County have over 20 miles. That means longer trips to practice, and this makes it harder to get players out. In the old days, we jumped in the back of a pickup truck, or the school provided an old vehicle. Those days are gone, probably for the better. The school provides after-school activity buses, and that helps, but we are still at a disadvantage. Coach Prater worked hard each year to overcome these problems and made Lewis County competitive year after year.

Now, some BT's Tidbits:

Football will once again be having the "Yard Line Sale" as a fundraiser for the team. The gist is that you pay \$25 and 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



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**The 1993 team would finish second in its district, but starting in 1991, both the first- and second-place teams advanced to the playoffs. Second Row: Matt Dyer, Clay Bloomfield, Benny McGlone, Zach Bannister, Jason Evans, Steven Thomas, Todd Prater, Todd Kinsel. Third Row: Billy McCray, Eric Sparks, Brian Cooper, Jason Lykins, David Hardy, Keith Prater, Andy Hartley, Chris Yates. Fourth Row: Travis Lewis, Ben Pugh, Scotty Hawks, Chad Cooper, Bradley Lykins, Joe Watson, Bobby Cooper. Fifth Row: Billy Ginn, Lance Tillery, Donald Ginn, B. J. Cunningham, Wayne Shope, Kevin Osborne, Jason Applegate. Sixth Row: Allen Prater, David Stafford, Roger Cooper, Joe Hampton, Corky Prater, Woody Robinson, and Larry Riley.**

I know that we so-called athletes felt that our practices were tough, but back in the day my wife would tell me of numerous kids going down in band from exhaustion when Mr. Fernandez was the band director. For two weeks, these young Lions will be learning formations and drills that require not only physical stamina but mental endurance. During the first week, the band will be trying to make the work a little easier by making each day a fun theme. Good luck to the band and Ms. Choi.

Next, we have the volleyball team and all the activities they will be going through in the next few weeks. First of all, the week of July 27 will be a theme week, with Coach Bentley making the week a little more fun to go along with the work. Then, on August 1, the young ladies will be having a car wash at the Marathon in Vanceburg from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Stop

having a scrimmage on Saturday, August 8, at the Lewis County High School football field against East Ridge and Green. This will be the first test of the team in true game conditions and should be a fun evening. Once again, Coach Stamm and his staff are waiting for more young men to make that commitment to represent their school. Do you know someone who could benefit from the traits that team play will instill? Encourage them to come out for the team.

Last week we started down the road of LCHS football history, and we stopped at the end of the 1970s. We will take up the trail where we left off, starting our venture into the 1980s and 1990s. During the early eighties, Coach Bill Robinson stepped aside, and the Corky Prater era started in 1982. Coach Prater would coach the Lions off and on for 22 of the next 24 years. During that time, he would take

numbers, so get yours soon.

I worked with my oldest son this past week surveying a farm in Tollesboro, and we had breakfast with my other son, who lives there, at the Dixie Café. Hall of Famer Bob Bane was having breakfast at the same time, and after a little conversation with my youngest son, Bob told him he needed to toughen up if he was going to marry into the Bane clan.

Mark your calendar for Friday, July 31, 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.

The football team is looking for local businesses, churches, and individuals who would like to sponsor a



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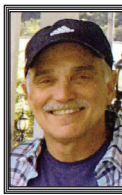
**The 1985 District Champions went 9-3 and still have the fewest points surrendered in a season, giving up only 98 points during the 11-game regular season. Front Row, left to right: Deidre Blevins, Julee Hasler, Rita Porter, Vanessa Blankenbeckley, Sandy Everman, Michelle Jordan, Beck Grier, Lana Thornsberry. Second Row, left to right: John Holder, Johnny Johnson, Woody Robinson, Matt Yates, Ray Clark, Tony Swearingen, Kenny Ruckel, Pooch Williams, Melvin Wills, Paul Robinson. Third Row, left to right: Roger Pack, Terry Johnson, Bub Lee, Kevin Duff, Billy Don Blevins, Jimmy Bloomfield, Troy Smith, Kevin Lewis. Fourth Row, left to right: Whitney Thompson, Mike Poynter, Eddie Johnson, John Davis, John Bentley, Sean Fugate, Billy Everman, Jamie Gibson, Greg Sexton. Fifth Row, left to right: Kevin Bloomfield, Mike Morris, Lee Salsgiver, Lonnie Wright, Danny Willis, Eugene Savage, Chad Clark, Bryan Wright, Leon Shepard. Back Row, left to right: Jimmy Fannin, Billy Burriss, Chris Pauley, Greg Edwards, Kenny Eldridge, Bobby Hronek, David Carver, Nathaniel McAdams, and Jerry Lyons.**

in, get your car washed, and donate some money to a good cause. Then, on August 6, the team will have a Blue/White Night. This will be a big night, and they hope you come out and support them in this venture. Also, don't forget that Coach Bentley will be on the Saturday Morning Sports Show on WKKS at 9:30. Tune in and listen to the coach and some of his insights into the season and their expectations.

two teams to the playoffs and win a district title in 1985. Kentucky high school football continued to evolve during this time, changing the number of classes and the number of teams that made the playoffs. Lewis County would always be swimming upstream as our population shrank during this time, and our pool of players was spread thinner and thinner. This is called our student-player density. Some schools

team meal before the game each Friday during the season. If you are interested, please let Bub Lee or Bill Tom Stone know as soon as possible.

The seasons are rapidly approaching, and the excitement is building in the air. It's not too late to be part of the excitement, so come out, join in on the fun, and be part of something that you will remember for the rest of your life.



## Councilman's Comments

Richard Walje

### An Explanation of My Vote on the Nuclear-Ready Certification

On July 20, a Special Called Meeting was held at City Hall. Among the agenda items was a resolution supporting the "Kentucky Nuclear Energy Ready Community Certification Process" and establishing community principles for future nuclear energy-related development in Lewis County. I was the only member of the Vanceburg City Council to vote "no." Because this is a significant decision for our town's future, I want to transparently explain my reasoning to the citizens I represent.

My immediate concern was the unnecessary rush. This resolution was added to a specially called meeting with less than a week's notice, leaving a single weekend to digest a highly technical subject. The resolution itself suggests possible workforce development, skilled trades expansion, industrial and infrastructure investment, etc.—merits that may well be strong. However, if a proposal has true merit, it does not need to be hurried through without ample time to fully research its potential implications.

Upon reviewing KRS 164.2804, I discovered that joint passage by both the county and city is required before a final submission for certification can be made. After scrambling for

information and consulting our city attorney, it became clear that checking this box was the only requirement or possible influence from our city council.

By voting "yes" in a hurried fashion, we have effectively rubber-stamped a process that we cannot now uncheck without revision. I strongly believe we missed a critical window to attach a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other protective language to this resolution. Doing so could have secured, at a minimum, a seat at the table with county officials for Vanceburg citizens' representatives, ensuring we are not totally excluded from possible future revenue, improvements to our infrastructure and public services, potential tax relief, local business incentives, etc. Also, clear language addressing possible electric rate impacts or improvements would have been beneficial. As it stands now, I see nothing other than a submissive "yes" vote.

It is important to note that the City of Vanceburg has absolutely no influence or authority concerning any future nuclear plant located in Lewis County. We are out of the picture other than this one required vote. This box is checked.

### The Economic Realities for Vanceburg

We must look at the direct economic implications of this certification. Under

Kentucky's new nuclear development framework, a "Nuclear-Ready" designation makes a region highly competitive for state pilot grants and heavy industrial infrastructure. Money may well be flowing. While this positions Lewis County for potential nuclear-related windfalls, it is imperative that the small, self-sustaining county seat of Vanceburg shares, at least modestly, in the resulting benefits. Remember, we pay both county and city taxes.

### Protecting Council and Citizen Decision-Making Rights

While we all want a more prosperous county, our local city government must also act as a protective shield for its constituents. I truly believe that what's good for the county should be good for the city, and vice versa; otherwise, we can be left behind, hurting both.

While I sincerely hope this path brings positive growth to our town, I could not, in good conscience, vote for an irreversible, fast-tracked measure that left Vanceburg citizens without explicit, minimal written protections.

Sincerely,  
Richard Walje

P.S.

I recently received Level II Recognition in City Governance from the Kentucky League of Cities sooner than I had expected.

## Congratulations!

On behalf of KLC, we are pleased to inform you that you have successfully completed the requirements for **City Officials Training Center Level 2: Excellence in City Governance**.

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Dial  
**9-1-1**  
Emergency

**REUNION NOTICE**  
**KIELMAN FAMILY REUNION** – The Kielman Family Reunion will be held at Sugarloaf Christian Camp on Saturday, August 1st, at 12:30 p.m. Bring a covered dish and family. For more information call: 606-291-6684.

## FIRE SAFETY CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

*The Vanceburg/Lewis County Volunteer Fire Department reminds you that practicing fire safety can save your life.*

- Don't leave the kitchen when food is cooking.

- Be careful with candles, and never leave them burning when you leave home or go to sleep.

- Don't use space heaters as your primary source of heat, and keep them at least three feet away from furniture, curtains and other flammable materials.

- Put matches and lighters in a safe place and never let children play with fire.

- If you use wood heat, have your chimney cleaned and inspected regularly.

## THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD deadline for all submissions is Noon Friday.

### LEWIS COUNTY NUCLEAR ENERGY READY COMMUNITY CERTIFICATION

#### Public Meeting & Educational Seminar

Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Lewis County High School Auditorium  
79 Lions Lane, Vanceburg, KY 41179

The public is invited to attend this free community educational event to learn more about economic development opportunities, workforce development, and the Nuclear Energy Ready Community Certification process.

This informational meeting is designed to provide factual information, answer questions, and encourage open community dialogue about what the certification process is, how it works, and what it could mean for Lewis County's future. Whether you are a resident, business owner, educator, student, or community leader, your participation is encouraged as we explore potential opportunities together.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Public Notice 30.31c

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