



From the Press Box

By Bill Tom Stone

This past weekend felt like fall for sure and those at the football game Friday was able to sport our hoodies and jackets to keep us warm. Football only has a few games left on the schedule and Volleyball wrapped up their regular season this past week. But sports are always going on at LCHS and the winter season sports are just around the corner. As a matter of fact, basketball kicked off their practices this past week, man time flies. As always, I want to encourage young people to get out and participate by joining the teams. You have but a short window and once it is gone so is your chance to make memories. Now on to last week's activities.

Our Lady Lions' Volleyball team split their final games of the season giving them a 11-14 record on the season. On Monday, October 12th they played the Mason Lady Royals at Lewis County and lost a tough one 3-2. They then welcomed East Carter into town and soundly defeated them 3-0. This was the best record since 2023, and the team is excited about the postseason.

The postseason will begin on October 19th at LCMS with the Lady Lions taking on the Greenup Lady Musketees at 6:00. That game will be followed by the Russell vs. Raceland game. The District Championship will be held on Tuesday at 7:00 at Lewis County Middle School. Here is wishing the Lady Lions the best and congratulations on a great year.

On Friday night the Lewis County football Lions traveled over to East Carter to play the Raiders on a chilly and drizzly night and lost by a score of 56 to 21. Turnovers played a big role in the game as the Lions turned it over three times with the Raiders capitalizing with points each time. This game was the last district game and gives the Lions a 1-3 mark within district and a 4-4 mark on the season. The next two weeks will

wrap up the regular season. Our young men are playing for a winning season, and this means something to them. We are also playing to improve before we go into the playoffs.

The Lions will be on the road next Friday, October 23rd at the Covington Holmes Bulldogs with kickoff slated for 7:30. If you can't make it to the game don't forget to tune into 104.9 WKKS to listen to the play by play with Seth and Shane Wallingford.

The middle school football team will be wrapping up its regular season this coming Thursday night at Lewis County against Nicholas County. This is 8th grade night and the pregame festivities will kick off around 5:30 and the game should start at 6:30. The 8th grade team comes into the contest with a 5-3 record and are looking to secure a play-off berth with a win. Hope that we have a good crowd on hand to cheer these young men on to victory.

Now some BTs Tidbits:

- The Lewis County High School filled its open Lady Lions Softball position this past week. Mr. Ryan Calvert was named to head the team going into this coming season. Mike Edington and I were honored to have him and Principal Jack Lykins at the Saturday Morning Sports Show on WKKS this past Saturday. Ryan has coached travel ball teams for the past several years and has built a reputation as a motivator and solid fundamental techniques coach. Good luck to Coach Calvert as he jumps into his new job.

- Remember that you can reach out to me with comments and suggestions by email at epb_billtom_stone@hotmail.com and my phone number is (606) 541-

0305. I look forward to hearing from you guys with information and ideas.

- The Kentucky High School Athletic Association has started a new partnership with Arbiter Sports to help keep the fans up to date. Just go to the KHSAA website and follow the Scoreboard. Still getting used to it, but they continue to make it more user friendly each week. Give it a shot and see what you think about it. Can't wait until the other sports come on-line.

- The Lionbackers are having their fall "Big Raffle" to help support the football team. Contact one of the Lionbackers to get your ticket and thanks for supporting LCHS football.

- Basketball practice has begun and both Coach Holder and Coach Wampler are looking for young people that want to contribute to their programs. Contact them and they will help you.

This past week I was talking to a friend about helping with ringing the Salvation Army bells this coming Christmas season and he chuckled and said that he would get back to me. I know that he will because we played in the trenches together back in the day and he always helps. That reminded me that the relationships we built back in the day still matter. Playing a sport with someone creates a bond that lingers long after our playing days are over. Maybe it's because of our shared experiences or the unexplainable bonds that teammates form, but I still cherish them. My wish is that more of our young people would get the chance to do so.

Follow School Sports
All Year Long In
THE LEWIS
COUNTY HERALD

OPEN MEETING

Under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578), citizens are afforded the opportunity to express their views concerning the recreational needs of their community. To provide a forum for discussion, an open meeting is being held on Tuesday, October 27 at 4:00 p.m. at the Vanceburg City Building in Lewis County sponsored by Vanceburg City Council. The specific purpose of this meeting is to discuss the recreation project in Vanceburg. Anyone with a significant supporting or opposing view is invited to voice that opinion at the meeting or in writing to:

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program
Department of Local Government
1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 340
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

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Legislative Update

State Representative Patrick Flannery



Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Unite in advocacy

Over the last few months, I have used my column to provide updates on the work the legislature is doing to prepare for our next legislative session in 2027. This week, I would like to pause to discuss the importance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, what the legislature is doing to help survivors, and what resources are available for those suffering.

What began as a national "Day of Unity" in 1981 has become an entire month dedicated to ending domestic violence across the country. October is a time for educating ourselves about the reality of domestic violence and abuse and standing with survivors to advocate for a better future.

The need for awareness is crucial, as this kind of violence is happening every day in our state. According to Kentucky's 2025 Domestic Violence Data Report, 8,301 arrests were made across the Commonwealth for incidents involving domestic or dating violence and abuse. Our courts ordered 20,129 emergency protective orders and temporary interpersonal orders. ZeroV is our statewide coalition dedicated to supporting survivors. In 2025, they received 19,481 crisis hotline calls and 14,338 individuals received services through their 15 regional do-

mestic violence programs.

During the 2026 Regular Session, House Bill 611 was signed into law to improve the accuracy and reliability of data collected regarding domestic violence. HB 611 requires the Criminal Justice Statistical Center to compile data related to domestic violence fatalities and incidents and provide an annual report to state agencies. Reporting responsibilities for the Kentucky State Police, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services are also clarified and strengthened by this law. The purpose of improving data collection is to hopefully prevent future violence and protect potential victims. This measure also helps to inform the legislature on the scope of the issue in order to make better policy decisions.

House Bill 418 was another proposed measure that would have closed gaps in our current domestic violence laws. HB 418 would have placed guardrails on reunification orders, required courts to treat repeat domestic violence as a presumptive bar to unsupervised visitation and custody, and held accountable those who make false domestic violence allegations during custody proceedings. Unfortunately, while the bill was passed by the House, it was not put up for a vote in the Senate and never progressed to become law.

As legislators, we have a responsibility to do our part in protecting Kentuckians from domestic violence. No one should ever have to suffer through that kind of horror, and awareness is one of the first steps to helping victims find freedom. Societal awareness can give victims the boldness they need to come forward and report the abuse they have suffered. We must stand together to support them.

However, for some, reporting is not an easy task. Victims struggling in silence need you to report if you notice something is wrong. We all share in the responsibility to report violence and abuse if we are witness to it.

It is my hope that with new legislation to improve data collection we can take steps forward as a state to end domestic violence and abuse. Of course, there is more work to be done, and I am committed to it.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, please seek help through local law enforcement, state law enforcement, or ZeroV's regional programs and hotline.

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.

Letters to the Editor represent a broad range of opinions and do not necessarily reflect the position of THE HERALD. All letters must be signed and include the writer's full name, address and telephone number. Telephone numbers will not be published but are used to confirm letters by THE HERALD. If telephone numbers are not included, letters will not be published. Please limit to 250 words. We reserve the right to edit any letters for brevity and content, and ask that they be written in good taste. Letters from the same person are limited to one in any given four week period. All letters will be printed at the sole discretion of the editor.

Mail to: Editor, LEWIS COUNTY HERALD,
336 Lions Ln., Vanceburg, KY 41179.

RICHARD WALJE FOR MAYOR

The AA Highway acts as a bypass for Vanceburg. We are not the only small town that has suffered the impact of a Walmart Supercenter within 30 minutes. Additionally, Vanceburg's municipal electric utility rates remain high, and our entire downtown area is in a floodplain. We have real community challenges.



To address these challenges, we must focus on tactical, actionable solutions. As a local realtor, one thing I have learned is that the county and the City of Vanceburg must complement one another. Property buyers—whether looking for residential homes or recreational land—almost always want to visit Vanceburg, even when their purchase is out in the county.

The Lewis County Comprehensive Plan explicitly discourages building in floodplains unless structures meet strict FEMA standards. This poses a challenge since our entire downtown area rests in a floodplain.

However, there can be creative ways to pivot. I recently facilitated the sale of a severely distressed trailer park on Third Street, fronting Salt Lick Creek near the Ohio River.

The new owner has completely cleaned up the property, completed excavation, brought in fill dirt, and plans to construct a small RV park. This project will simultaneously satisfy floodplain requirements by utilizing mobile recreational housing and welcome tourists with disposable income directly into our downtown business district.

I also recently facilitated the sale of a building on Main Street, which is now the VHS Museum. I recently learned from the owner that he has obtained his museum license from the motion picture industry and can show films, with the added benefit of hosting outdoor events. The Old School property nearby offers a large open area overlooking the river that would be perfect for this venue.

Both of these recent investors see promise in Vanceburg while complementing each other and existing businesses.

These small, tactical steps can bring impactful results. Upgrades to the boat dock area, paired with a proposed walking bridge across Salt Lick Creek to connect these hubs, could also breathe new life into our town. It is my hope that a comprehensive plan recognizing the walking bridge and modest riverfront infrastructure will help secure grants.

Portsmouth, Ohio, is spending \$34 million, and Ripley, Ohio, is spending \$16 million on their respective waterfronts. Vanceburg can hopefully capitalize on these expenditures with modest investments, simply by inviting boaters to visit our little town and providing docking facilities.

On Electric Rates:

While recently attending the Kentucky League of Cities Fall Summit, I learned about the Kentucky Municipal Energy Agency (KYMEDIA). The agency has 11 participating cities pooling their electric purchasing power and decision-making.

The City of Olive Hill faced a situation similar to Vanceburg's. They signed a 20-year contract with AEP at the same time we did. However, when that contract expired, they chose to join KYMEDIA. Vanceburg opted to return to AEP, signing a three-year contract, which now has less than two years remaining.

I reached out to Olive Hill officials, and they remain satisfied with their choice. While KYMEDIA may or may not be the right fit for Vanceburg, the time to research and educate ourselves is now, due to the complexities of considering a utility transition.

Progress has been made and continues to be made. If elected mayor, I plan to continue building on that progress.

I am asking for your vote to be Vanceburg's next mayor.

Thank you,
Richard Walje

Paid for by Candidate

THE LEWIS
COUNTY HERALD

"That's Where
You'll Find It!"

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.