



THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

\$1.00 Volume 103 The Only Newspaper Published in Lewis County Vanceburg, Kentucky Phone 606-796-2331 TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026 NUMBER 2026-15



Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

One person was taken to the hospital following this two-vehicle collision at the intersection of the AA Highway and KY 57 at Tollesboro. First responders were busy on a number of incidents across the area.

Thank a dispatcher

Herald Report

The second full week of April is recognized each year as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, bringing well deserved attention and recognition to the public safety dispatchers who are an invaluable part of every emergency response team.

citizens.

“Our E-911 dispatchers are an invaluable asset in our ability to assist our residents and motorists in times of need,” said Lewis County Judge Executive George Sparks.

“Telecommunicators have a very difficult and very important job. Our dispatchers are a vital part of our public safety team.



NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY
TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

This week of recognition, sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International, honors the thousands of men and women nationwide who answer emergency calls, dispatch emergency professionals and equipment, and render life-saving assistance to the world’s

The work they do every day is important and I’m proud of the effort they put forth in performing their duties,” Sparks adds.

“Our hardworking dispatchers serve as a vital link between the public and fire, medical, and law enforcement agencies,” says Sheriff Johnny Bivens.

Please see page 8

Impersonation scams on the rise

By Dennis K. Brown

State officials are warning Kentuckians to be on alert following a recent increase in impersonation scams across the Commonwealth.

According to the Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet, scammers have been posing as agencies such as the Kentucky State Police, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet in an effort to obtain money and personal information.

Officials say these scams often involve callers or messages that appear legitimate, but are designed to deceive victims into sending money or sharing sensitive information.

The Federal Trade Commission offers several tips to help residents

avoid becoming victims:

- Do not wire money or use gift cards, cryptocurrency or payment apps to send money to someone claiming to represent a government agency.

These types of payments are difficult to trace and nearly impossible to recover.

- Do not provide financial or personal information to unsolicited callers or messages.

If a contact seems suspicious, hang up and contact the agency directly using a verified phone number.

- Do not rely on caller ID. Scammers can manipulate phone numbers and names to appear as legitimate government agencies.

- Do not click on links in unexpected emails, text messages or social media posts, as these may lead

to fraudulent websites designed to steal personal information.

Andy Beshear said scams continue to impact families across the state.

“Scams are cruel and cost Kentuckians money that could be going toward rent, groceries, retirement and more,” Beshear said.

“Our law enforcement officers are committed to protecting our people, including by tracking down scammers and helping bring them to justice,” he adds.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Kentuckians lose more than \$74 million annually to internet scams.

Officials say the growing use of technology and artificial intelligence has made scams more sophisticated and more difficult to detect.

Authorities emphasize that education and awareness remain the best defense against fraud.

Residents who believe they have been targeted by a scam can report it to the Kentucky Attorney General’s Office by filing a scam report.

Council meets in regular session

By Dennis K. Brown

Vanceburg City Council met in regular session last week with a full agenda of business, including ordinances, financial matters, and community projects.

Tara Roberts was sworn in as city clerk by City Attorney Stephen McGinnis. Roberts replaces Greta May, who accepted a position with the city owned utility company. Roberts had served as assistant clerk.

Under old business, council members approved second readings of two ordinances. One involved the intent to annex property owned by Southern Ohio Medical Center on Commonwealth Road. The second was a budget amendment ordinance adjusting city finances for the current fiscal year.

The budget amendment reflects additional revenue to the city and includes transfers to the Vanceburg Electric Plant

Board, along with proceeds from the sale of city-owned real estate, as outlined in the ordinance document.

In new business, Kelley Galloway Smith Goolsby, PSC CPA Lori Dearfield presented the city’s audit for the 2024–25 fiscal year, reporting a clean audit.

Council members also approved a resolution adopting a crisis communications plan for the city and a separate resolution related to a crumb rubber grant.

Two ordinances received first readings, including one establishing fees billed to insurance for fire department responses and another addressing payments to firefighters.

Council approved the appointment of Greta May to the Lewis County Planning Commission, replacing Paul Bruce Swearingen, who stepped down from the board.

Members also dis-

cussed upcoming community events, including Food Truck Friday, and considered naming property recently donated by Harvey Denham.

During the meeting, a Garrison resident raised questions regarding utility rates of the Electric Plant Board, prompting discussion among council members.

In addition, the city announced a community cleanup initiative. Beginning April 8, the City of Vanceburg is offering free yard debris pickup within the city limits each Wednesday through the end of June. Residents must call city hall to schedule pickup, and materials are limited to organic yard debris such as leaves, grass clippings, and small branches. Trash and tires will not be accepted.

The meeting concluded with reports, updates, and an executive session before adjournment.

Please see page 8

Butler is magistrate candidate

By Derrick Butler

My name is Derrick Butler, I’m a born and raised Republican and I am seeking election for Magistrate of District 4. I humbly ask for your support in the 2026 primary election.

For those of you who may not know me, I am the son of Ricky Butler and the late Venus Butler. I have lived my entire life in District 4. I grew up on Laurel Creek Road, and at the age of 19 I married my high school sweetheart, Stephanie Adams of Salt Lick Road.

Today, Stephanie and I are raising our three daughters on our cattle farm at Clarksburg, where we have lived for the past 16 years. This community is not just where I live — it’s where my family is rooted, where my daughters are growing up, and where I want to see a strong future for the next generation.

Alongside farming, I have made my living in the logging industry, working side-by-side



HERALD

Derrick Butler

with my father and my older brother. That work has taught me the value of hard work, teamwork, the responsibilities of business and budgeting wisely.

I have dedicated my life to working hard, supporting my family, and being part of this community. If elected, I promise to bring that same work ethic and common-sense approach to the courthouse.

My main priorities: Stand up against tax increases, eliminate wasteful spending, and make

sure every dollar is used wisely. The people of this county deserve transparency and accountability, and I will always support open and honest government.

I also believe leadership means showing up when it matters most. I hold a Class A Commercial Driver’s License, and if authorized and needed, I’m ready to step up and volunteer to assist our road department during emergencies. Whether that means operating equipment, hauling materials, plowing snow, or helping with recovery efforts, I’m willing to do my part.

My goal is simple: To serve the people of Lewis County with honesty, accountability, and a commitment to making sure our county government works for the people.

I pledge to always be guided by my Christian, Conservative, and common sense values in every decision I make. I humbly ask for your vote on May 19, 2026.



Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

City Attorney Stephen McGinnis (right) swears-in City Clerk Tara Roberts at the April session of Vanceburg City Council as Mayor Joe Billman looks on.

\$1.00

Index

Inserts

Obituaries ©2026 LEWIS COUNTY HERALD PUBLISHING CO., INC.



Classifieds 7
Obituaries 5
Sports 2

Bud Applegate
Michael Taylor
Rena Dunigan
Kenneth Esham

