

Still time to complete broadband survey

By Dennis K. Brown

Buffalo Trace Area Development District, in partnership with Lewis County Fiscal Court, is conducting a survey of Lewis County residents to help identify what barriers prevent people from accessing and/or using the internet.

Funds have been made possible by Connect Humanity to conduct this study. Information collected will be useful in determining what actions can be taken to assist residents with accessing and using the internet.

The surveys have been distributed in an earlier edition of THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD as well as in utility mailings from the Electric Plant Board of the City of Vanceburg.

Printed copies are available at THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD office at 187 Main Street in Vanceburg.

Copies of the survey may be downloaded by following the Herald QR code or you

may take the survey online by following the Survey QR code.

The surveys must be completed/returned by Friday, May 24, to be recorded.

If you have questions about this survey, contact Sierra O’Cull at Buffalo Trace ADD at 606-564-6894.

For more information, visit the Kentucky Office of Broadband at broadband.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx and the Kentucky Broadband Availability Map at <https://tinyurl.com/4srjduc6>.

Residents can also check their information on the Federal High-Speed Internet Map to assess the accuracy of the information associated with their address.

To review the maps, go to broadbandmap.fcc.gov and enter your street address.

The FCC released the map in late 2022, which allows users to search by street address where providers make high-speed internet access

services available and where they do not.

The map shows information on fixed internet service by provider name, service technology type (e.g., fiber, copper, satellite) and the maximum advertised speed offered at the location. Mobile wireless service also is shown by technology type (e.g., 3G, 4G, LTE, 5G).

Sparks encourages all Lewis Countians to complete the survey and return it by the deadline.

“The information collected through this survey is crucial in developing the next steps in our broadband improvement journey in Lewis County,” Sparks said.

“It is important that as many households in the county as possible provide this information which will ultimately benefit all of us.”

Broadband service concerns may be reported and the broadband availability map may be viewed at <https://broadband.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>. You may sign up for the Affordable Connectivity Program (<https://www.fcc.gov/acp>).



Ruthie Platt/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

A tow and barges need a little help from another tow boat after becoming lodged at the river bank in front of the home of Bill and Ruthie Platt near Garrison.

PANTRY

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Vanceburg Baptist Church will take over the monthly mobile distribution with the location to be determined,” Clark said.

“The next mobile is scheduled for June 8, if we can get it worked out that quickly,” she adds. “July’s date will be changed due to the (Fourth of July) holiday,” she said. “Normally, it’s always the first Saturday of the month.”

Donations to participating organizations are not allowed during distributions, according to the rules.

People are welcome to donate to an organization any time except during food distribution.

The Chosen Path and Lend a Helping Hand give out food from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

This USDA program requires income eligibility. However, God’s Pantry Food Bank does not require proof of income.

TEFAP is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of people with low income by providing them with emergency food assistance at

no cost. USDA provides 100% American-grown USDA Foods and administrative funds to states to operate the program.

Clark says neighbors may pick up TEFAP once a month from either Lend a Helping Hand or Chosen Path, but not both.

Hunger is real. God’s Pantry Food Bank in Morehead distribution is helping curb hunger one basket at a time.

To learn more about how serious hunger is and how you can help to make a difference, visit <https://godspantry.org>.

PLANT BOARD

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prove our response to outages and help with other efficiencies,” he said.

“The new meters have been 100 percent tested before they are shipped to ensure their accuracy,” Stone said. “We continue to work with Vision Metering and our software provider, Avenue Insights & Analytics, to integrate the two systems.”

“There are still a few meter bases that have not been updated and we can not install the new meters at those locations,” Stone told board members.

“Starting in July, if these meters are not upgraded the utility will start charging a \$25 manual reading fee,” he said.

“This fee will be used over the next few years to help upgrade the meter bases that have not been upgraded,” Stone added.

Stone reviewed the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year for members prior to their official adoption.

Here are the highlights Stone presented to board members:

- Revenues are projected to remain steady for the upcoming year.
- Electric and gas costs are forecasted flat year over year.
- Wages up slightly with a three percent GWI, offset by the elimination of a position.
- Fringes are projected up driven by medical insurance.
- Capital Improvement projects for South Portsmouth electric distribution and starting the process of replacing well #3 with a new well.

Stone said that based on the fuel costs paid versus the amount in the base cost for electricity, the company will need to pass a 1.4 cent fuel surcharge to customers in the coming month.

Stone said the rehab of the Salt Lick Water Tank by Huffman Tank and Tower Inc. was recently completed.

“This work was paid for with the Cleaner Water grant that the city received on behalf of the Electric Plant Board from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority,” Stone said, adding that the tank is in the process of being placed back into service.

Board members approved financial reports and payment of bills before adjourning.

Lewis County Board of Education Invitation to Bid – Diesel Fuel

The Lewis County Board of Education will be accepting bids on diesel fuel. Bid forms containing specifics can be found under district news or archived news on the district’s website at www.lewis.kyschools.us, the bus garage at 55 Old Lock 32 Spur, Vanceburg, KY, or at the district board office at 251 Lions Lane, Vanceburg, KY. Bid forms must be placed in a sealed envelope with “DF-2024” written on the front of the envelope. Bids must be received by 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at the Lewis County Board of Education: PO Box 159, 251 Lions Lane, Vanceburg, KY 41179. Bids will be reviewed at the June 10, 2024 board meeting, they will be approved or denied.

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Lewis County Board of Education Invitation to Bid on Surplus Property

The Lewis County Board of Education will be accepting bids on surplus property. Bid forms containing a listing available items can be found under district news or archived news on the district’s website, the bus garage at 55 Old Lock 32 Spur, Vanceburg, KY, or at www.lewis.kyschools.us, or at the district board office listed below. Forms must be placed in a sealed envelope with “Surplus Property Bid” written on the front of the envelope. Bids must be received by 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at the Lewis County Board of Education: PO Box 159, 251 Lions Lane, Vanceburg, KY 41179. Bids will be reviewed at the June 10, 2024 board meeting, they will be approved or denied.

Surplus property can be inspected by appointment Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. starting May 14, 2024 through May 31, 2024. Contact Bill Allen at 606-796-2191 for appointment.

Successful bidders will be contacted by Friday, June 14, 2024. Successful bidders will have until Friday, June 21, 2024 to make payment and take possession of property. The Lewis County Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids. No bids from current employees will be accepted. The surplus property is to be sold “as is” with no warranty and no guarantee.

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MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS

KADF

KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Eligible Investment Areas:

- Agricultural Diversification Ag Tech
- Ag Tech & Leadership Development
- Large Animal - Small Animal
- Farm Infrastructure
- Fencing & On-Farm Water
- Forage & Grain Improvement
- Innovative Ag. Systems
- On-Farm Energy
- Poultry & Other Fowl
- Value Added & Marketing

Administered by
LEWIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

38 W KY 8 Suite D
Vanceburg, KY 41179
606-796-3831

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are available for Lewis County’s CAIP to assist farmers in making important farm investments.

Application Period:
MAY 20, 2024 - JUNE 10, 2024

No applications will be accepted before May 20, 2024 or after June 10, 2024, 4:30 p.m.

Informational Meeting – May 30th at 6 p.m.
Lewis County Extension Office

Application Availability:
LEWIS CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Monday – Friday (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

For More Information:
Contact ANGIE PATTON at 606-796-3831 or email angela.patton@ky.nacdn.net

All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

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THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

Serving Lewis County for 100 years!

The Vanceburg City Council Meeting held May 6, 2024, was an absolute embarrassment. During a discussion on blighted properties in Vanceburg, the Assistant Chief of Police, Joe Billman, yelled out, “You’re all idiots.” Upon hearing of this, my first thought was that statement was totally inappropriate and Assistant Police Chief Billman should apologize and offer his resignation. But then, I realized that maybe Billman was not at fault – perhaps the one at fault was his boss, Police Chief, Joe Paul Gilbert, who seemed to be quite amused by this outrageous tirade against the people (take time to watch the video). He should have resigned in his Assistant Joe Billman. After all, we have been told that Joe Paul Gilbert is the designated person for blighted property issues. The more I thought about the situation, I started to think the one at fault was actually Mayor Dana Blankenship. Blankenship was in charge of the meeting and he let it get out of control. Are there not meeting rules to be followed, such as either Robert’s Rules of Order or a similar meetings ordinance established by the city? So, at that point, it seemed the one responsible was our Mayor Dana Blankenship. After still more contemplation, it seems the City Council Members should be able to control the meetings, in the event the Mayor cannot keep control. In the meantime, the members of the silent audience (not allowed to speak without prior approval) are beginning to wonder if anyone is in control of what happens at the City Council meetings. Was Billman right? Are we all idiots for allowing this type of leadership to make the decisions impacting our lives?

- Robert Farrow, Jr.
A concerned individual who has invested much time and money to making Vanceburg a better community for all.

NOTIFICATION OF DESTRUCTION OF STUDENT SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

LEWIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

May 21, 2024

In accordance with the state and federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA), this is to inform you of our intent to destroy personally identifiable information related to special education services maintained in Lewis County School District special education records.

If you wish to maintain this information for your personal records, you need to notify us upon receipt of this notice; otherwise, the information will be destroyed on June 5, 2024.

Please be advised that the records may be needed by the student or the parent(s) for social security benefits or other purposes.

Records to be destroyed are as follows:
Individual Education Plan (IEP)
Evaluation Reports
Test Protocols
Notifications of Meetings
Notices of Action
Review of Existing Data Summaries
All other personally identifiable information within the Special Education file*

The reason for destruction of the above listed items is because they are no longer needed to provide educational services, as it has been more than three (3) years since this individual has received special education services from the Lewis County School District.

The district may maintain a permanent record, without time limitation, of a student’s name, address and phone number, his/her grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed.

The school is required to maintain records for a minimum of three (3) years from the date the child no longer received special education and related services.

Copies of records in the future will be offered to graduating students and will be maintained for three (3) years.

You may contact Paula Lewis at the Lewis County Board of Education office at 606-796-2811 or at PO Box 159/65 Central Elementary, Vanceburg, KY 41179, for further information.

Sincerely,
Paula Lewis
Director of Special Education
Lewis County Schools

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