

## WKKS PUBLIC INSPECTION FILE FIRST QUARTER 2023

COVID-19 . . . With the issues surrounding response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) at the federal, state and local levels, WKKS and WKKS-FM have continued extended coverage and use of air time to provide news and information to our listeners on this continuing threat to our residents since mid-February 2020. We continue to devote a portion of each newscast to promote vaccine availability and provide current state and local information.

The daily coverage since March 6, 2020, when an emergency was declared in Kentucky has included newscasts with Local and State COVID information and numbers, and regular interviews with Judge Executive Todd Ruckel, Judge Executive Jimmy Lykins, Judge Executive Craig Stanfield, Emergency Management Directors George Sparks and Dennis Brown, Vanceburg Mayor Dana Blankenship, Health Director Anita Bertram and School Superintendent Jamie Weddington, among others.

Most weekly press conferences with Governor Andy Beshear have been aired live. The daily press conferences ended in May 2021 with the improvement of numbers but have resumed as needed (Now every Thursday at 12:30 p.m.).

While the governor's press briefings no longer centered on COVID-19 beginning in early March 2022, WKKS and WKKS-FM have continued to carry the now weekly briefings which have been on a variety of topics of interest to Kentuckians. Many of the briefings since the end of July 2022 have focused on extensive flooding in Eastern Kentucky. Many local organizations and individuals have assisted in the post-flooding efforts of those affected communities. High winds and storms on March 3 also resulted in extensive damage to many areas of the state with some damage in Lewis County. Assistance for those suffering losses has been discussed during these briefings.

COVID-19 PSAs from every available source, including locally produced, have been aired extensively. Many of the interviews have been conducted in the offices of Lewis County Emergency Management and Lewis County Health Department and uploaded to WKKS Studios.

WKKS and WKKS-FM provide listeners with regularly scheduled national, state and local news, sports and weather and regularly scheduled public affairs programming to address issues of concern to our listeners, including:

### NEWSCASTS

AP National News (24/7)

Local and Regional Newscasts at 7a, 730a, 8a, Noon, and 5p. Hourly Weather Forecasts

Special Weather Statements as warranted

### SPECIAL NEWS COVERAGE OF

COVID-19 at the state and local levels

Lewis County Fiscal Court

Vanceburg City Council

Lewis County Board of Education  
Vanceburg Electric Plant Board  
Lewis County Chamber of Commerce  
Lewis County Tourism/Economic Development  
Lewis County Emergency Management

#### SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

EAS Weather Bulletins  
Lewis County Extension Office Reports

#### WEEKLY UPDATES FROM GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR

Severe Weather Response - High wind, tornadoes, flooding  
Legislative session updates  
Economic Development  
COVID-19 Updates

Consumer Science information is a weekly public affairs program that airs Thursdays @12:15 p.m. and is hosted by Amanda Broderick with the local Extension Office. Segments have included information on processed foods, chronic stress in today's world, probiotics, walking for exercise, using baby formula safety, benefits of an involved dad, bank phishing scams, and vaping among teens.

Religious programming Sunday mornings and Sunday nights, and Wednesday nights.

Lewis County High School Athletics (football, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball).

Community Leaders (Interviews addressing local issues).

A local Bluegrass music program featuring local artists airs on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

We air :30 and :60 second public service messages for events, activities, and issues of concern in our local community. In addition to various national PSAs, this quarter, they include but are not limited to:

EKY Flooding and ways to help

Suicide Prevention

High School Sports

COVID-19

Don't text and drive

Kentucky State Police

Adoption

Vanceburg Lions Club

Tollesboro Lions Club

Chamber of Commerce

Girl Scouts

First Steps

Lewis County Extension Office  
Lewis County Library  
Weather Safety  
Phone Scams  
Fire Prevention  
Lewis County Schools Extracurricular Activities  
Lewis County Adult Education

Timely PSAs  
High School Diploma  
Kid Safety  
Ky Nect  
GED  
Suicide Prevention  
Gun Safety  
Vaccinate against COVID-19  
Vaccinate against Flu  
COVID PSAs  
Get Your Vaccine and Booster  
Get Your Vaccine/Younger 16-28  
Get Your Vaccine/Youth & Parent  
Colorectal Cancer

#### FIRST QUARTER 2023 ISSUES - WKKS & WKKS-FM PSAs

Winter Weather Preparedness  
EKY Flooding  
Local road checkpoints by Sheriff's Department  
Suicide Prevention  
Veterans  
KY Broadcasters  
Wildfires  
COVID-19 PSAs Include  
Call First  
Mental Health  
COVID-19 Kentucky Broadcasters  
COVID-19 Local  
School construction. - Construction continues at Lions Lane facilities and work is underway on new Garrison Elementary facility. Work underway at Tollesboro Elementary and Laurel Elementary.

Work underway by local officials to construct a recreational park at the Black Oak Industrial Park.

Local Ambulance Service concerns after provider announced possible closure of local hub. Current efforts are underway to create a countywide ambulance service district and establish an ambulance tax. Ambulance committee meetings have been covered extensively.

## SCHOOLS

Assisted with providing information on school and athletic events for Lewis County Schools.

## DOWNTOWN VANCEBURG

Mayor Dane Blankenship interview about project improvements for city streets. Possible contracting of local trash pickup.

## ROADS

News segments included stories on road improvements including safety improvements for school zones. Upcoming blacktopping projects on the AA Highway, KY 57 and KY 59 near Vanceburg.

Updates on road work being done in various areas of the county. School Zone safety a priority.

## WEATHER

Participation in local monthly testing of outdoor warning sirens and participation in events with local Emergency Management officials and National Weather Service officials in Wilmington, Ohio.

Provided listeners with special weather statements concerning flash flooding and high wind.

Promoted ways to receive weather and closing reports by subscribing to local texting service. (Promotion of Lewis County Alert System.)

Participation in national and state EAS testing.

## FARM AND HOME

Agriculture Extension Agent Phillip Knopka addressed various topics on his weekly program (Fridays at 12:15 p.m.). Topics included:

Early start on your garden

Start 2023 with record keeping

Deicing around your home

Tractor care

Soil sample for garden or landscape

Firewood insects

Manure timely testing

Sprayer cleaning

Garden off to a good start

Spring task for beef producers

Fertilizing your lawn in the Spring

Bed bugs

## ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education is a critical part of the economy. Adults without a GED or high school diploma will struggle financially, often being a drain on society. Adult Ed reps recorded PSAs to run that promote the program and explain available funding to assist students.

The Adult Ed office has fully reopened following a closure during much of the COVID-19 restrictions. PSAs from Vanceburg Mayor Dane Blankenship promoting local services available including online and in-person services.

**WEATHER CONDITIONS**

News and PSAs to stress fire safety (Spring Fire Hazard Season - Through end of April). News segments included information on outdoor burning safety. Special reports for spring storms and fire danger levels in the listening area. Shelter center was activated March 3-4 as high wind threatened extended power outages. Provided extended coverage of weather for March 3 event.

\* A copy of this document was placed in the station's local Public Inspection File on April 9, 2023.

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