

GRADUATES

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Hamilton, Catelyn Williamson, Natalie Wiloughby, Hayden Wilson, Cameron Wolfe, Shiane Wolfenbarger, and Jordan Zornes.

TOWN HALLS

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Register at <https://kcoj.info/June10CFCRB>.

Findings from the meetings will be reported to the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board and included in the CFCRB’s annual recommendations to the Supreme Court, governor and legislature.

Regional meetings are among the reforms called for in adoption and foster care legislation passed in 2018, to improve outcomes for children in out-of-home care.

More information may be found at bit.ly/CFCRB-volunteer.



May 2025 County Judge Executive Monthly Report

May has been filled with meetings and springtime events.

Lewis County Recovery Ready Community Certification Site Visit. Dallas Hurley and Sueanne Fox with the Ky. Office of Drug Control Policy came to Lewis County. Governor Andy Beshear is hopeful that all 120 counties will become Recovery Ready. So far only 25 counties have completed the requirements to certify as an RRC. Tammy Brown with Fresh Start Health Care in Vanceburg has taken the lead and worked tirelessly with our Lewis County team to complete the check-off list and prepare for this site visit. We appreciate all our partners. The Staff at Fresh Start Christopher Tullis, and Maudrie Hatcher, Health Department Anita Bertram, Alex Halsey, Sheriff Johnny Bivens and Deputies, Vanceburg Police Chief Joe Paul Gilbert and officers, County Attorney Benjamin Harrison, EM Director Dennis Brown, the Circuit and District Court Judges Paul Craft and Brian McCloud, Lewis County Public Library, The Vanceburg Homeless Coalition, and Comprehend Inc. Rod Baker. Thank you! This was a great opportunity to discuss the resources that are available and the resources we are working to make available for those in the community who need help with Substance Abuse Disorder. We want to help people who need help getting their lives back on the right path and into a successful career where they can make a positive impact with family, friends, and this community.

FEMA visited Lewis County to meet with Applicant Agent LeAnn Kamer and EM Director Dennis Brown and myself for a Recovery Scoping Meeting for Disaster DR 48-48 2/14-3/7/25 flooding that washed out Swearingen Branch, Bear Branch, and damaged a culvert on Old Lock and Dam Road. Raymond B. Nieves Mendez Program Delivery Manager, Julie Moore FEMA PDMG, Jaime Flores FEMA PDMG, and Rob Reinhart FEMA PDMG. A few others attended the meeting by zoom. We discussed all three projects in detail. Two of the projects are completed and the last one will be completed once the new culvert is delivered.

Hospice of Hope full Board of Directors meeting. The meeting was led by Chairperson Barb Campbell. We were given an audit report review done by Dean Dorton. Reports given were operational, financial, marketing, and subcommittee. Executive Director Shawn Flaughter gave the board an update as well.

Buffalo Trace Regional Transportation Committee. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Matt

WEBB

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to rural Kentuckians,” Webb said.

“First and foremost, I’m a mother, a rancher and a lawyer with deep personal and professional roots in Kentucky’s coal country,” she added. As the Democratic party continues its lurch to the left and its hyper-focus on policies that hurt workforce and economic development in my region, I no longer feel it represents my values. It has become untenable and counterproductive to the best interests of my constituents for me to remain a Democrat.”

Republican leaders welcomed Webb’s decision. Senate President Robert Stivers praised her as a “thoughtful and commonsense” legislator who prioritizes her constituents’ needs. US Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell also extended his congratulations, noting Webb’s advocacy for Eastern Kentucky families.

Webb was recently appointed as the Senate co-chair of the Disaster Prevention and Resiliency Task Force, which will meet during the interim session. She sponsored a resolution to establish the panel. Her appointment was made by Sen. Stivers.

Republican National Convention Co-Chair KC Crosbie said Webb will be a “natural fit” for the party as quote “a tireless advocate for rural communities and the mountains of eastern Kentucky.”

Democratic officials, however, criticized the move.

Kentucky Democratic Party Chair Colmon Elridge accused Webb of aligning with a party that seeks to reduce healthcare access and support for rural communities.

“Senator Webb has chosen to join a political party that is currently working around the clock to take healthcare away from over a million Kentuck-

ians, wipe out our rural hospitals, take food off the table of Kentucky families and take resources away from our public schools. If those are her priorities, then we agree: she isn’t a Democrat,” Elridge said.

Webb’s decision reflects broader trends in Kentucky politics, where rural areas have increasingly shifted toward Republican representation.

Her switch leaves Representative Ashley Tackett Laferty, of Martin, as the sole Democrat representing Eastern Kentucky in the state legislature.

In her most recent update to constituents, Webb stated she was preparing for the interim session.

“Looking toward June, legislators will soon return to Frankfort as we enter what is known as the interim joint session,” she wrote. “This phase of the legislative calendar is not a break from duty. It is a period of deeper focus

before the next session commences. This is when lawmakers review past legislation, examine pressing issues, and study the policy decisions that shape everyday life across the commonwealth.”

“For me, this interim is a time to listen, ask better questions, and prepare,” Webb added. “With a 60-day budget session on the horizon in 2026, the work we do over the next several months will influence how we invest in education, healthcare, public safety, and rural economic opportunity. This is where the foundation is built. I plan to take an active role in that process.”

Webb is eligible to seek reelection in 2026. Her last election in 2022 was uncontested.

Senate Democratic Floor Leader Gerald A. Neal, D-Louisville, released the following statement regarding Sen. Webb’s announcement that she is switching parties:

“Senator Webb’s decision to change parties will not change the course and diligence with which the Democratic Caucus has and will continue to operate. The Democratic Caucus remains committed to working to bring Kentucky a brighter future by fully funding public education, protecting workers’ rights, and fighting for the well-being of Kentucky’s families.”

“We will continue to support investments in job training and workforce development; expand access to affordable healthcare; provide solutions to food insecurity; establish affordable housing initiatives; prepare for and effectively manage disaster response and ensure responsible budgeting for the Commonwealth.”

“We look forward to continuing to work with Senator Webb and all of our Republican colleagues to make Kentucky a better place to live, work and raise a family.”

Judge Executive’s Report

By George Sparks

Wallingford. We approved of the top three projects in all five Buffalo Trace counties. Going on now is the construction of turn lanes at the intersection of AA and 989 Salt Lick Road to improve safety and decrease collisions. Other top projects on our list that haven’t made much progress are KY 59 from Pollitt Lane, Reconstruct KY 57 from AA to Fleming County Line, and KY 8-C in Garrison to Scaffold Lick Road.

E-911 Staff meeting with EM Director Dennis Brown and HR Director Penny Lee. We discussed the new hardware refresh and how it works. So far it is working well. We have the radios in all the county road department trucks and are waiting for one to be installed in the dispatch center. We talked about 988, two dispatchers per shift when large events are going on such as 1806 Adventures, Mud Lick Valley Raceway, Lions Club fair, and other areas of the county. We discussed Rapid Deploy, a tool the dispatchers use often when searching for addresses and tracking resources. Windstream will be changing from copper to fiber for the dispatch center. We also talked about eight- and twelve-hour shifts, overtime, and the budget.

Attended by zoom the TENCO Workforce Development Quarterly Partner Meeting/Maysville Community & Technical College Workforce Solutions.

Attended the Lewis County Cattleman’s Association quarterly meeting. The meeting was held at the Tollesboro Lions Club Fair grounds. President Phil Stamm called the meeting to order. A prayer was offered by Lewis County Magistrate Mark Horsley. The food was prepared by Lewis County Extension Agent Kennedy Cannon. This was a great meeting in that our membership reached an all-time high of 101 members. The speakers were Ted Howard and Jimmy Jett. Ted and his family intend to build a new stockyard in Tollesboro. Jimmy, with the Fleming County Farm Service Agency, spoke about cattle prices and farm loans that they offer.

Worked with MSU Small Business Development Center Rachel Bowling and Mike Jackson, TENCO/BT Workforce Development Steven Peed, and Cassie Hunt, BTADD Kevin Cornette, SOAR, United Way, Lewis County Finance Officer Morgan Cooper, Treasurer Penny Lee, and Mr. Ben Collier Local 248 Business Manager to hold a Lewis County Business Forum called Unity in Business. Thanks to our sponsors Save-A-Lot, Polley’s Bypass, East Ky. Monument, Lewis County Extension Office, Vanceburg. Thanks to all our Lewis County businesses, the guests, and speakers. What a great event and time to net-

work with other business owners. Also, a great opportunity to learn what each other does and is excited about. We learned about the resources that SBDC and Workforce offers our businesses for free. If you are a business owner and missed this event but would like to connect with SBDC or Workforce Development my office is happy to connect you with them.

Presided over the May Fiscal Court Meeting. The meeting was opened with Prayer offered by Pastor Arthur Moore from Southern Manor Baptist Church. Sheriff Johnny Bivens led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chuck Swearingen and Ben Collier spoke to the court about SB 63 allowing special purpose vehicles to become legal to drive on county and state roads. There was lots of discussion about the bill. Resolution 25-08 County Road Aid, Resolution 25-09 Financing of new Mack trucks, Surplus of Mack trucks that are now in use. The first reading of the Fiscal Court Budget was approved. The Montgomery County Regional Jail Agreement and The Crumb Rubber Agreement were approved. Joe Bentley was appointed to Lewis County Board of Appeals. The court approved to have four solid waste litter abatement employees at 12 dollars per hour. Jamie Weddington was appointed to the Library Board till 6/30/2029, Ashley Willis appointed to the Library Board till 7/1/2027. Monthly Reports were presented and approved by all departments and approved. The approval of claims and transfers before adjourning the meeting. The next regular meeting will be June 9, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. There will be a special called Fiscal Court meeting on 5/19/2025 at 3:30 to discuss and vote on SB 63 ATV becoming street legal.

Attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, and the Disaster and Emergency Services quarterly meeting. The past minutes were approved. Treasurer Penny Lee gave a financial report that was approved. We discussed the new satellite Starlink phone systems the Lewis County Health Department purchased and placed with Emergency Management Directors office. One system can support 200 calls at one time and can provide high speed internet connection in remote areas of the county where there is no cell service. Garrison Fire Chief Marty Strong talked about RAVE, 911 emergency communications, and the Fire Department. I gave an update on the Tornado Sirens in the county. We are working with BTADD on a grant for another siren around Lions Lane near the High School. We heard from Ben Mitchell, Nelson Brother’s Plant Manager. We wrapped the meeting up by discussing the

August meeting as the final planning meeting for our LEPC Tabletop Exercise in November 2025 at the Lewis County Extension Office. We want to bring all our emergency disaster responders together and work together how to mitigate a severe weather event with a tornado touchdown in the county.

Brian Storz, Alice Mandt Ky. Division of Water, and Annabel McKee from Energy and Environment Cabinet. They came to Lewis County to kayak down Salt Lick Creek to see if it would be considered a Blue Water Kayak trail. They also wanted to visit Vanceburg Lock and Dam station.

Visited South Shore Mayor Cheryl Moore along with Garrison, Quincy, KY-O-Heights Water District Manager Trent Underwood. During the meeting we discussed the water project that would provide public water to 13 to 20 unserved families in the Firebrick area. Mayor Moore has been and continues working to move this very important project forward. Trent and I shared our appreciation and offered our support and partnership to help any way we can. We also appreciate KIA (Ky. Infrastructure Authority) Sandy Williams and Debbie Landram who helped secure the funding for the project.

Presented a Proclamation to Lewis County EMS in celebration of EMS Week 2025. This was an extra special event as we near the one-year anniversary of opening the service. A cookout with great food was followed by an awards ceremony for the employees. I would like to thank Director Michael Byble, Board of Directors Chair Danny Palmer, Brenda Cunningham, LeAnn Ruggles, Tim Douglas, Karina Jordan, along with the staff of EMTs and Paramedics. Thanks also to our E-911 Emergency Dispatchers, Volunteer Fire Fighters, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Management who all help each other. We appreciate the great work all are doing in Lewis County!

Held a Special Fiscal Court Meeting on 5/19/25 at 3:30: A) The first reading of Ordinance #25-03 Street-Legal Special Purpose Vehicle. B) FY-25-26 Waist Tire Grant Agreement. Both were discussed, voted on and passed before the meeting was adjourned.

Attended the Tollesboro Volunteer Fire Department Annual Fish Fry Fund Raiser. An outstanding meal was provided. Thanks, Chief Lee Thomas and all the Volunteer Firefighters for all they do to protect and serve our community!

BTADD monthly Executive Board followed by the full Board of Directors. The meeting was called to order followed with prayer by Steve Pedersen and the Pledge of Allegiance. The new budget and the budget verses actual were both pre-

sented by Stephen Culp and approved. Kathy Dillow gave a nominating committee report and recommendation for City of Maysville Mayor Debra Cotterill to serve in the vacant Mason County representative seat on the Executive Committee. Spirit of Kentucky project award was discussed. Brian Blank from Ky. Fish and Wildlife was our guest speaker. We heard staff reports from all departments. Executive Director Kevin Comette gave the board a report on several projects he is currently working on. I thanked Kevin and the staff for their excellent work as well as the board members for their service.

Attended the Governor’s zoom update on the February, April, and the now May Disasters in Kentucky. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the families effected by these natural disasters.

Trinity Fish and Game Club monthly Meeting. President Marty Wright called the meeting to order. Secretary/Treasurer Marie Applegate read the meeting minutes and gave a financial report. Both were approved. Fund raising at the Lions Club Fair was discussed.

Camp Dix Fire Department Project opens the bids meeting at 1:30 on 5/23/25 in the Fiscal Court Room. Two separate bids were presented and opened. We then discussed the next steps with BTADD staff and the committee.

Penny Lee, Morgan Cooper, and I met with Ryan Plank of Lewis County High School about a summer student work program. A high school graduate will be working in our office 240 hours this summer.

Spoke at the Memorial Day service at Veterans Park in Vanceburg along with Mayor Dane Blankenship. Thanks to Mayor Blanken-

ship, Brenda Bear, Vanceburg VFW, Pastor Wes Cooper, Josie Ervin, and all who participated in the service.

LVCAP monthly Board of Directors meeting. During this meeting we approved the past minutes and financial report. We discussed program reports that were given by Executive Director Kenny Walters. We also discussed customer satisfaction survey, employee health Ins., use of LVCAP credit cards, donations at the centers, and changes to the finance manual updates.

Comprehend Inc. monthly Board of Directors meeting. Chairperson Rebecca Cartmell opened the meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mission Moment was given by Jennifer Gordley, Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator. The past minutes and financial report were approved. A fundraiser will be held on June 20, and donations are now being accepted. Several other topics were discussed before the meeting adjourned.

Met with Buffalo Trace TENCO Workforce Development Steven Peed, Cassie Hunt, and Finance Officer Morgan Cooper to discuss and plan a job fair here in Lewis County for October of this year. I think we came up with some great ideas to make it more beneficial to our citizens and businesses.

Thanks to Tram Construction, Adam Cooper and the Lewis County Vocational School crew for preparing (bulldozer work, concrete forms, rebar setup) for a basketball court at the Black Oak Recreational Park. Thanks to our grounds maintenance department for the park looking nice, and Chad Clark for the Memorial Day start up the Splash Pad. Thanks, and God Bless!

NOTICE

The Lewis County Fire Department Tax Board has two openings for the Board. Anyone interested in serving on the Board please contact Brenda Cunningham at 606-202-1629 or brenda020656@aol.com by Friday, June 6, 2025. An election will be held on June 28, 2025, at the Lewis County Fire Department from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Public Notice 22c

Year-End Clearance Sale!

Now is the time to save big!

Hidden Progress Greenhouse

1196 Harn Road
Flemingsburg, KY 41041
10 miles from Tollesboro

50% Off all Annuals, Hanging Baskets, and Floor Planters.



20% Off all Perennials.

10% Off Poly Lawn Furniture and Tomato Stakes.

22c

Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
Closed on all Christian holidays.