



Judge Executive’s Report

By George Sparks

September was a busy and productive month. I visited Superior Composites and Coroplast with Lewis County EM Director Dennis Brown. During our visit, we thanked them for employing many people in Lewis and surrounding counties. We expressed our appreciation for their presence in Lewis County and for their roles as two of our larger employers. We shared that my office is in the planning stages of another Health and Career fair this fall and has collaborated with the Kentucky Blood Center to host a blood drive as well. If you or someone you know is looking for a job, please contact Superior or Coroplast today.

I attended the Lewis County Opioid Abatement Committee meeting in the Fiscal Court room. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tammy Brown. We reviewed all the proposals and discussed each of them.

I attended a meeting with BTADD’s Kaleigh Zeigler regarding the Buffalo Trace Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Lewis County and the City of Vanceburg. We all met at the LC EOC/911 Center. We reviewed changes to the 2026 action items, discussed goals and objectives, held open discussion about the plan, and reviewed the schedule for our next meetings in October, November, and December.

I went to TRAM Construction to attend the Lewis County Recreational Committee meeting, held in the conference room in Black Oak. During the meeting we discussed the Vanceburg Boat Ramp and Park project with Mayor Billman and the grant funding and steps needed to begin construction of the sports complex at the park. We reviewed bylaws and discussed membership of the committee. Penny Lee gave a financial report before the meeting was adjourned.

I attended the Buffalo Trace Water Management Council meeting held at BTADD. Mallory Bane called the meeting to order and called for a motion to reappoint a chair to fill Judge Tina Teegarden’s position. The council approved Craig Miller, Bracken County Judge, to be chairman. Brennan Tucker, ARC Program Director with DLG, gave a presentation on ARC grants. The past minutes were presented and approved. We discussed the county ranking meeting coming up in October. Kristie Dodge gave a GRANT funding update before the meeting was adjourned.

My office held a September 11 memorial service on the front porch of the Lewis County Courthouse. Wow, what a great turnout this year. I welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining to remember a day that changed our nation forever.

Nick Kislack with SOMC performed several songs. Thank you, Nick, for participating in our memorial service. Johnny Byard, Ben Collier, and I spoke. Shirley Williams of WoodmenLife worked with Finance Officer Morgan Cooper and Treasurer Penny Lee to plan and organize the service. Shirley brought donuts and coffee donated by Kangaroo Ridge for all to enjoy. She also presented a 9/11 Flag of Honor Memorial to Lewis County Circuit Court Clerk Teresa Callahan and her staff for display in the Lewis County Justice Center. Thanks to all of our speakers, staff members, maintenance crew members, and everyone who helped set up and clean up.

I presided over the BTADD annual meeting and full Board of Directors meeting. The meeting was held in Old Washington at The Social 606. Executive Director Kevin Cornette welcomed everyone to the meeting. I called the meeting to order, followed by prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and roll call. The past minutes were approved, followed by committee reports. Under new business, Steven Culp gave a financial report that was approved. Three intergovernmental reviews were approved. Judge Schumacher attended to swear in the new officers: Rebecca McGinnis, chair; Owen McNeil, co-chair; Louie King, secretary; and Ann Stocker, treasurer. New Chair Rebecca McGinnis gave a gift to me on behalf of BTADD. I shared what an honor it has been to serve on the BTADD board and as Chairman for past two years. Rebecca shared her thoughts and asked Judge John Simms to deliver the Invocation before the meal. After lunch, awards were given for community leadership and regionalism, followed by staff awards recognizing 5, 10, 15, and 25 years of service at the ADD. KY Senator Frommyer presented a citation to the Roger King family. Flemingsburg Mayor Van Alexander presented the Leadership Award to Bob and Margaret McGinnis of Flemingsburg. I presented the Lewis County Leadership Award to County Attorney Ben Harrison. Judge Valeire Miley presented the Robertson County Leadership award to Kristi Allison.

I presided over the September Fiscal Court meeting. Sheriff Johnny Bivens called the meeting to order, and Magistrate Woody Underwood offered the prayer. Sheriff Johnny Bivens led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mitch Hull addressed the court and shared his thoughts about SMRs. Greg Barron asked whether a nuclear project was already underway at the Carrs site. I let Greg know that Kevin Cornette was planning to speak and his questions would be answered.

The court approved having open nuclear educational public meetings. One has taken place and another will be held in October. The past meeting minutes were approved. In new business, the court opened and approved the bids for FLEX projects. The court opened and approved bids for LARP road projects and authorized applications for new LARP projects. Resolution #26-18, the Rural Secondary FLEX Program Agreement, was approved. The court approved Randy Steagall’s reappointment as a certified electrical inspector for Lewis County. The court acknowledged receipt of the 2026 taxing district rates. The court approved the use of HMB Engineering to assist BTADD with an ARC grant and conduct studies on the location and design of a riverport along the Ohio River in Lewis County. The court approved acceptance of the Spay/ Neuter grant. This year, we were awarded \$1,800, and the court will contribute a \$300 match. Karin Collier and Gary Esham were both reappointed to the Garrison Water Board, both terms ending 12/31/2030. The court approved hiring Wyntre Wintz as a full time 911 dispatcher. Wynter has earned her dispatcher certification through the academy in Richmond. Congrats, Wyntre! The court approved hiring Steven Berry to work in Solid Waste. The court approved the purchase of a truck for Solid Waste. BTADD Executive Director Kevin Cornette then addressed the court on the second nuclear educational public meeting to be held at LCHS on October 3rd from 5-7 p.m. He also addressed misinformation about nuclear projects that had been posted on social media. Monthly reports were presented from all departments and approved.

I attended and led the Lewis County Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Advisory Board meeting. The meeting was held in the Fiscal Court room. We discussed KRS 91A.350, which addresses local tourism and convention commissions. We discussed the process of establishing a Lewis County commission and preparing an ordinance for presentation to Fiscal Court at its October meeting. The ordinance will require a second reading in November. Ben Collier gave an update on the KY Ohio River Regional Recreational Authority. At the previous KORRRR meeting in Louisville, I was appointed to the board, and Ben Collier will also represent Lewis County at board meetings. We discussed the ARC grant for the Kinniconick Blue Water Trail entryways. Finally, Ben Collier has been invited to sit on a discussion panel on Oct. 19 in Lexington at Embassy

Suites. He will discuss several Lewis County and Vanceburg projects on which he has worked with the Kentucky Division of Water.

I attended the 25th annual KCJEA Fall Forum in Hopkinsville, KY. We visited Lake Barkley, Fort Campbell, the Alhambra Theatre, Novelis Advanced Manufacturing, and Elkton Square. We heard from Nick Carter with UK Cooperative Extension; Representative Jason Petrie, who provided Kentucky legislative updates; Heather Hairgrove, who discussed Kentucky housing; and speakers on county infrastructure and facility solutions. Executive Director Todd Ruckel also provided updates on local government issues.

I worked with LC EMS Director Michael Byble and Mallory Bane at BTADD to apply for a grant with The King’s Daughters and Sons Foundation of Kentucky, Inc. to submit a grant application for a heart monitor to be used in a Lewis County EMS ambulance. I am hopeful that the grant will be awarded. Heart monitors are expensive, and having a backup available during a large-scale emergency or disaster could make the difference between life and death.

I attended the monthly LVCAP Board of Directors meeting. The meeting this month was held at the Mason County Senior Center. I called the meeting to order, followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The past meeting minutes were presented and approved. The financial report was presented and approved. Executive Director Kenny Walters gave an update on all programs, including CHFS and LIHEAP. He also talked about the Department of Energy’s on-site visit to LVCAP. The board held a brief executive session before the meeting adjourned.

I attended the Executive Board meeting at Hospice of Hope in Maysville. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Hutchings. The past minutes were approved. Executive Director Shawn Flaughter presented the policies, which were approved without change. The August financial report was presented. Shawn then went over the strategic scorecard. He spoke about the Mount Orab office and some possible changes, Census goals, and his upcoming performance review. The meeting was then adjourned.

I attended another Opioid Abatement Committee meeting in the Fiscal Court room. Chair Tammy Brown called the meeting to order. Cassie Johnson spoke to the committee about the Hope House proposal. We reviewed all the proposals, discussed each one, and voted on which to present to Fiscal Court on October 12th. The meeting

was adjourned.

I worked with Lewis County Finance Officer Morgan Cooper and several local organizations to plan this year’s Health and Career Fair, scheduled for November 5th, 2026, at the Black Oak Fire Department. Please mark your calendars! Stop by for affordable health screenings. If you or someone you know is looking for a new career, this is the place to be.

I attended the Regional Prevention Center ASAP full board meeting by Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Ellen Cartmell. New board members were welcomed. The EC and full board minutes were approved. The financial report was tabled until next meeting. Tara Anderson provided updates on the fiscal agent, school-based funding, and harm reduction. Mini-grants and other matters were discussed before adjourning.

I attended Comprehend Inc. full Board of Directors meeting in Maysville. Chairperson Rebecca Cartmell called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The past meeting minutes were approved. Insurance contributions were discussed, and the executive committee’s recommendation was approved. The financial report was discussed and then tabled. The nominating committee presented two candidates for board membership, and both were approved. The annual board dinner will be held on October 26th at 6 p.m. The meeting was then adjourned.

I attended the Vanceburg-Lewis County Industrial Authority meeting at Vanceburg City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Levi Clark. The past minutes and financial reports were approved. Kevin Cornette provided an update about the Nuclear Ready Community Certification. An update on the Black Oak property was given. Fiscal policies and bank authorizations were discussed. The meeting then adjourned.

I attended the Kentucky Education Fund Scholarship Organization at BTADD in Maysville. Everyone was welcomed by BTADD Executive Director Kevin Cornette. We then learned about the KY Education Fund. We learned about the fund as a whole, then we learned about the Education Freedom Tax Credit Program and HB1 Legislation, stakeholder’s roles and responsibilities, and how institutions partner. The meeting closed after a short question and answer session.

As summer fades to fall, I am looking forward to all of the festivities planned throughout our county. I look forward to enjoying our beautiful landscape as the leaves begin to change and the weather cools. We are truly blessed to live in such a beautiful community. May God bless you!

Church Notices

Homecoming

Evans Chapel will be having Homecoming and Pastor Appreciation on November 1 at 10:00 a.m. with James Adams preaching,

Revival

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ near Foxport would like to welcome everyone to their Fall Revival October 25th through 28th with evangelist Kirk Rolph. Services begin Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday evening services will begin at 7:00 p.m. Music nightly. The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is located on Pleasant Valley Road.

Revival

Blankenship Christian Holiness Church will be having revival October 19-24. Morgan Hall will be preaching Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Lonnie Eden will be preaching Wednesday and Saturday. Singers scheduled are Monday, New Highway; Tuesday, Crisp Family; Wednesday, church singers; Thursday, Baintown Church singers; Friday, Tyran Ellis and Sydney Sparks; and Saturday, Crisp Family. Services start at 7:00 p.m. The church is located at Camp Dix. Pastor John Lewis and congregation welcome everyone.

Revival

Salem Community Church will hold its Fall Revival October 26–30, with services beginning at 7:00 p.m. nightly. Brother Sam Wiehle will be preaching.

Special singing will be provided by the McClure Family on October 26, Sam & Rylee Wiehle on October 27, Harvest Time on October 28, Tyran Ellis on October 29, and the Crisp Family on October 30.

The pastor and congregation invite everyone to attend. Those unable to attend are asked to keep the revival in their prayers.

The church is located on Road 984, Little Cabin Creek, 1/2 mile off North 57 toward Concord, KY. For directions or questions, call 606-798-6677.

Everyone is welcome!

Ladies Retreat

Jesus’ Helping Hands Ladies Retreat at Aills

Where: Aills Christian Church on Quick’s Run Road

When: Saturday, October 31, 2026

Theme: “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God.” 1 John 3:1 N.I.V.

Registration: 9:00–9:30 a.m. Retreat start time is 9:30 a.m. End time is when God says it’s over!

A free lunch will be provided by the ladies of the church.

Guest speakers and singers include Sheila Ruark, Diane Wilson, Diana Parker, Mattie Grayce Mers, and Grace Evans.

A free gift table will be set up. Everyone is welcome and feel free to bring a friend. Come and celebrate a day of joy with your fellow sisters in Christ. "My servants shall sing for joy of heart." Isaiah 65:14.

An Encouraging Word

By Tom Cox



Jonah

I rarely go to the movies anymore, but I recently saw a trailer for a film that is just coming out. It is called Whalefall. I don’t know enough about the movie to spoil it for anyone, but it is evidently about a scuba diver who is swallowed by a whale and then struggles to survive.

The movie looks interesting, and it reminds us of the biblical story of Jonah, the wayward prophet who was swallowed by a big fish. I thought we might take a quick look at the book of Jonah and see what lessons we might learn.

It starts with Jonah being sent by God to preach to the

wicked city of Nineveh. He balked at the assignment and got on a ship that was going in a different direction, trying to flee from the Lord.

However, a violent storm arose that was so threatening that even the experienced sailors were afraid. They cried out to their gods and urged Jonah to do the same. They finally determined that Jonah was the cause of their trouble, and they asked him what they should do to make the sea calm down. Jonah replied that they should throw him into the sea and it would become calm. They did not want to throw him to his certain death, so they tried to row to land, but to no avail. Finally,

they threw Jonah into the sea and it grew calm. This had such a profound effect on these sailors that they sacrificed to the real God and made vows to him.

Meanwhile, the Lord provided a large fish to swallow Jonah. In the belly of the fish Jonah called out to the Lord. The Lord heard his cries and commanded the fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land.

Given a second chance, Jonah went to Nineveh and preached that the great city would be overthrown. The people there believed God and repented. When God saw their response, he relented and did not bring about the destruction he had threatened.

You might think that this would please Jonah, but he became angry that the Lord had shown mercy to Nineveh. The Lord confronted Jonah about his wrong attitude and defended his own concern for the people of Nineveh. We do not know how Jonah responded to the Lord’s pep talk. The book ends without informing us of Jonah’s final reaction.

Here are some lessons we can learn from the account of Jonah. First, sometimes God gives his people some very difficult assignments. However, the Lord always equips us fully for the task at hand, and he does expect our full and immediate obedience.

Second, we see that you can’t run from God! He will always find you! There is nowhere we can possibly go to hide from God.

Third, God controls nature. Jesus, God in the flesh, showed the ability to walk on water and to calm fierce storms. Since God created nature, he can control it.

Lesson number four, God’s power can cause unbelievers, like these sailors, to come to faith in the one true God.

Additionally, we can learn that God accepts the prayers of repentant sinners, even when those prayers are offered from the belly of a huge fish!

Also, we see that God gives second chances. Jonah was given another opportunity to preach to Nineveh. Like many others in the Bible, this wayward prophet received a second chance. Aren’t you glad that we serve a God who gives second chances!?

Finally, we learn that the Lord cares about our attitude. He is not satisfied with our reluctant obedience. He wants us to show the same compassion that he has for all people, and the same mercy that he offers to those who repent.

For more inspirational writings by Tom Cox, go to www.jesustrek.wordpress.com.