

**Charges** the cliff leaving her for dead. He said he then took the five-year-old to a separate area where he struck the child with a metal object multiple times on his head and left his body in a wooded area separate from that of his mother. After Jessica was found by hikers on Saturday, September 9th, local first responders joined other first responders from other areas as well as volunteers searching nonstop for the child.

After the weekend search, at 9:31 am on Monday, September 11th, the five-year old's body was found and he was pronounced deceased by Deputy Coroner Lonnie Hacker. The child was found 180 feet off Sparks Ridge Rd and approximately six tenths of a mile from where his mother had been found on Saturday.

Belt had been scheduled for a preliminary hearing on Monday on charges of kidnapping the mother and child and the beating of Durham and tampering with physical evidence. However, after the child was found murdered, that charge was added to the others.

Barker, Belt's attorney, asked District Judge Henria Bailey-Lewis to hold a single preliminary hearing on all the charges at which time the judge scheduled the hearing for this Monday, September 25th. She entered a plea of not guilty for Belt on the charges of murder of the child and said bond is set for \$1,000,000 for the murder charge and \$500,000 for the other charges which were two charges of kidnapping, one for the mother and one for the child, assault 1st and tampering with physical evidence. Belt remains behind bars at press time.

**Peyman** thought police would think the marijuana was hemp. He said that state police spotted suspected marijuana plants at Peyman's farm during aerial surveillance in

July. The plants were in a tree line and were surrounded by weeds about 350 yards from the industrial hemp on Peyman's farm in the southern part of Jackson County.

State police checked the plants without Peyman's knowledge, took samples, mounted hidden cameras near the plants and a nearby parking spot, and put tracking microchips in six of the 61 plants at the site.

Police covertly checked the plot on Sept. 5 and found that the marijuana had been harvested. The video showed two men, who were allegedly involved with Peyman, harvesting the plants the day before. Allen said they then got a warrant to search Peyman's barn and house on Sept. 6 and arrested him after finding suspected marijuana plants. The plants were in a hidden room in his barn, Allen said.

There were 71 plants. It is possible that some of the original 61 split while being harvested.

Allen testified that five of the microchips he had put in the suspected marijuana plants at the back of Peyman's farm were found in plants in the barn. Allen said tests showed that the plants had a higher level of the "high"-producing chemical than industrial hemp plants involved in Kentucky's pilot program can have.

According to KSP Detective Allen, The two men who were allegedly growing the pot on Peyman's farm, Edward Hoskins and Arthur "Fuzzy" Gibson, told police they understood that Peyman was in danger of losing his farm and wanted to get into the marijuana business to save the farm.

Allen testified that both men said Peyman supplied them the plants found growing on his farm, and that they were growing the pot for him.

Jackson District Judge Henria Bailey

Lewis ruled that there is probable cause to forward Peyman's case to be reviewed by the grand jury for a possible indictment.

She set a hearing for Nov. 7 for Peyman to answer the indictment if the grand jury charges him.

Peyman is charged with cultivating marijuana and trafficking in steroids. He is free on bond.

**Sheriff** David, asked me to include her letter of thanks in the local paper.

To: Sheriff Hays and to All Our Fellow Neighbors  
From: Jessica and David Durham

We wish to thank everyone for pulling together as a community in our time of great despair and need. Whether you helped in the searches, donated anything or simply shared a commendable post or supplied resources during the search and rescue of our sweet baby boy, James, any and all efforts were and are greatly appreciated. Thank you, a million times over.

From our Hearts to Yours  
The Durham Family  
Jessica and David

Perhaps some good has come from tragedy. Maybe the good people of our county have shown our true colors and those people who can only read or hear about this tragedy now begin to see why we all love Jackson County. We have a wonderful place to live and we do care! Hundreds of volunteers spent untold hours looking for little James. We all hoped and prayed he would be found alive. Our worst fears were realized when he was located, but our consolation has been the pride that comes with trying our best to make a difference in the lives of others. I am so proud of our volunteers! You make a difference.

Last week the Jackson County Sheriff's Office responded to sixty-eight calls for service.

We investigated four traffic accidents and opened one criminal case. We arrested five individuals on various criminal charges. Our courts worked overtime to keep the court safe during the difficult hearings that occurred. We work hard to serve civil and criminal papers for our citizens. We appreciate the support from the county and continue to do our best for the people we serve.

Thank You and God Bless

**Judge** we saw yet again another tragedy. When death happens it's always bad but when it's a child it's terrible. We want to send our condolences and prayers to the families that have suffered so much in the last few days and weeks. I would have never imagined that a murder of a small child would happen in our hometown but it has. This is something our community will never get over but will only have to deal with it a day at a time. Pray for all those involved in the rescue efforts as well. These first responders have seen it very rough the last few days.

The events of the fair and the recent search and rescue effort that was performed, only show us how valuable First Responders such as EMS, Law Enforcement, Volunteer Fire Departments and trained Emergency Management people are to our community. The knowledge and stewardship they express speaks well of the nature of small town life. We try as a Fiscal Court to keep our first responders equipped as well as we can so they can be prepared in the event of an emergency. Grants that are offered through the Department of Homeland Security are competitive but we apply every year in hopes of receiving updated equipment for our departments. When the cycle rolls around to apply for a grant I anticipate the Fiscal Court to apply again.

I received a

message from Kentucky State Police Detective Keeton this week informing me that they still haven't released the 2015 or 16 FY Audits of the Fiscal Court. This is the information they need to proceed in the case concerning the former Treasurer. We exited on both of those audits in April of this year and The State Auditor's office has continually told us that they would have them ready soon but have still not heard an official date of release. This is frustrating to us but we can't do anything until that audit is released.

We had some good news come our way this past week. Senture owner and President, Bill Deaton, contacted me last week to let me know he was planning on opening his Annville Facility up in October. This resulted in a job fair there this past week and a lot of local interest in these jobs. This location can work up to 145 people and the contract they plan to work there is a 5-year Federal Contract. We need as many jobs as we can get in Jackson County and hope that this works out well for our Citizens and Mr. Deaton.

The week of the Fair was damp but we still had a great turnout for the events that were held. Lots of good entertainment and family fun were packed into Labor Day weekend. It was another successful Fair and as always, I want to think each one of the Fair Board and those who volunteered for bringing your A Game for this year's Fair.

On a final note, we had some special guests in the courthouse yesterday. September is "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" and we had some of our county's very own little cancer warriors on hand yesterday as we signed a proclamation declaring September as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in Jackson County. Everyday an average of 43 children are diagnosed with cancer in the USA.

Sadly 12% of these kids die from this deadly disease. Yesterday we celebrated victory though and promoted cancer awareness and treatment for our Children. Keep them in your prayers.

**Vigil** support of Jesse Durham, James' mother, became a plan. Ashley Ayers, Chasey Spurgeon (who became sick, and was unable to attend) and myself, Jessica Truett, began organizing the event.

The candlelight vigil, was organized in 4 short days, with the intention to gather the community as one, to honor this child, and show his mother that we support and care about her, for the recovery of the injuries she sustained while being beaten and thrown off of a cliff last week.

Pastor Brian Gabbard opened the vigil with a few words, reading of scripture, then he led us in prayer, after his prayer, he asked for a moment of silence while we lit our candles. The emotions, and tiny lights filled the air, as we all came as one, and shared our sorrow.

After a few moments of silence, Ashley and I spoke to the crowd, encouraging them to continue their prayers for Jesse and the family throughout the days that lie ahead. We asked them to hold their children tighter and love every moment they have with them.

Brian Gabbard dismissed the vigil with thanks to all that came out. After he finished speaking, someone in the crowd started singing Amazing Grace, then they all joined in.

As the crowd left, we encouraged each and everyone to write an encouraging word for Jesse, and place in a box that sat beside a picture of James.

Ashley and myself want to thank everyone for coming out, and honoring this precious child. A special thanks to Brian Gabbard for leading us in prayer. Also, to those who contribute their time to help us.

The community of Jackson County, truly know how to come together in time of need. It's a small town, with a big heart, and I'm proud to call it home.

**2017 Festival of Hope**  
2017 Festival of Hope Saturday, October 7, 2017  
Gray Hawk Park from 1:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.  
Refreshments provided by the JCCF teams and Darrell Combs delicious BBQ Sandwiches!!!

**Owsley County Health Care Center**  
is seeking a Registered Nurse for the role of Quality Assurance (QA) at our beautiful skilled nursing facility in Booneville, KY. The Quality Assurance Nurse must be an experienced nurse with strong QA skills to collaborate with a team to develop an effective quality monitoring program. Ideal candidates will have leadership, analysis and decision making abilities, attention to details, and the organizational skills necessary to manage several projects simultaneously. Must be competent in Microsoft word, excel, and the ability to collect, clearly document and analyze data. At least two years previous work experience in a Long Term Care environment. Competitive Salary and benefits available. Please contact Caddis Bowling or Whitney Younts at 606-593-6302. Owsley Co Health Care Center is a EOE.

**TO THE CITIZENS OF JACKSON COUNTY**  
The Jackson County Transfer/Recycling Center would like to remind everyone of our continued recycling program. By using the services of West Rock Recycling, we are able to accept the following items at no charge. Plastics #1 and #2 (we do NOT accept plastic bags at the Recycling Center for recycling) and steel food cans must be rinsed. Those items not rinsed, will be considered contaminated and you will be charged a disposal fee. The labels do NOT have to be removed, we also take the following items if they are sorted; cardboard, newsprint, magazines, phone books, hard back books, junk mail, used oil and various scrap metal (including appliances). Please remember that these paper items must be sorted and separated. We also have a free weekly collection route for business and industries wishing to recycle. Any business owner or industry wishing to recycle or a citizen needing information about our drop off center, can contact Shane Harrison or Jason Thomas at 287-7688. The hours of operation for The Transfer Station/ Recycling Center is Monday - Friday 8:00 to 4:00 and 8:00 to noon on Saturday.