

Greenup man nearing trial may face more charges

BY MARY JANE EPLING
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

GREENUP Prosecutors are in the process of bringing more charges against a Greenup County man already facing multiple sex crimes, but his attorney argues the Commonwealth has already had ample opportunity to do so.

Darrell Wayne Hay, 49, has been held in the Greenup County Jail since August on 10 felony charges, including

two counts of first-degree rape, second-degree sodomy and tampering with physical evidence.

Hay previously pleaded guilty to all 10 counts in the indictment against him.

According to previous reports and court documents, Hay is accused of engaging in sexual intercourse with an intellectually disabled woman, although Hay said he was the one pursued by the woman “prior to her having brain

surgery.”

Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney David Flatt said the prosecution is in the process of appointing a guardian to the alleged victim to represent her interests in court, however with a motion for a speedy trial already entered by Hay’s attorney, Bruce Blackburn, the defense argues that should take no longer than a few days.

As far as additional charges, Flatt said the Commonwealth

is just waiting to present new evidence, allegedly uncovered during forensic investigation of an electronic device, for an additional indictment.

Blackburn argued that Hay had been in jail now since August, calling the past eight months “ample time” for more charges to have been presented to a grand jury.

Greenup Circuit Judge Brian McCloud scheduled Hay for a pre-trial conference on May 15 to give the prosecution

more time to appoint a guardian to the alleged victim and for the presentation of any more charges to a grand jury.

McCloud said if a guardian had not been appointed and no new charges were added, he would approve the release of Hays from custody pending the May 27 trial date.

The trial is expected to last two to three days.

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Summer trial likely in sex crimes case

BY MARY JANE EPLING
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

GREENUP A July trial date for a South Shore man accused of sexually abusing a minor will remain as set.

Robert Ethan “Bo” Wampler, 28, was arrested in October 2023 on two counts of first-degree sexual abuse and procuring or

promoting the use of a minor via electronic means.

Currently out of custody, Wampler appeared alongside his defense attorney, Matthew Wisecup, on Thursday in Greenup County Circuit Court.

Per previous reports and court records, Wampler is accused of fondling a child’s breast and genital area in 2023,

according to the time frame outlined in the indictment.

Wampler is currently set to stand trial on the allegations on July 14 — which as of Thursday — shouldn’t need to be postponed.

Wampler is set for another pre-trial conference on May.

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Andrews returns to roots to expand health care access



ANDREWS



BROWN

SUBMITTED CONTENT

LONDON Kentucky Family Practice, a primary care clinic in London, announced additional ownership under Paul Andrews and Matt Brown.

This transition marks a new chapter in the clinic’s mission to provide accessible, high-quality health care to the Laurel and Whitley County region.

For Paul Andrews, now the CEO of Kentucky Family Practice, this is more than a business deci-

sion — it’s a homecoming. A Laurel County native and celebrated Kentucky basketball player, Andrews famously led his team to a state championship victory with a last-second shot before continuing his collegiate career at the University of Kentucky. Following his success on the court, Andrews transitioned into a health care leadership career, serving for several decades as a hospital CEO and health care executive. His return to his roots brings a unique blend of passion, experience and

commitment to improving the well-being of the community he has always called home.

Joining Andrews in this endeavor is Matt Brown, a health care executive with nearly 25 years of experience in health care management and leadership. Brown is a Louisa native.

Under their joint leadership, Kentucky Family Practice plans to enhance services, expand access, and continue delivering patient-centered care to families across the region.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Boyd County EMS will hold their quarterly board meeting which will include the budget for 2025-2026, on Wednesday April 16 at 2:30pm. This will be held at the downtown bldg. at 2758 Greenup Avenue.

Published: April 11, 12 & 14, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEMOLISH

The City of Ashland hereby advises, without further notice, that any person or entity claiming ownership of or holding interest or other encumbrances in the property described below is notified that the structures have been found unsafe and unfit for human habitation or use. All structures are to be repaired or demolished within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice.

Failure to repair, demolish, or obtain a restraining order within thirty (30) days will result in the City of Ashland razing and removing all structures. A lien for all associated notification, legal, and demolition expenses will be charged against the real estate.

525 39th Street, Ashland, KY 41101

For Inquiries Contact:

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Published: April 11, 2025

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE

**Pursuant to Application Number 864-8031
Renewal #6**

In accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Big Sandy Resources, Inc. 31 Emerald Ln, Louisa, KY 41230 has applied for renewal of a permit for surface coal mining and reclamation operation affecting approximately 4.79 surface acres located 0.16 miles south of Zelda in Lawrence and Boyd County.

The operation is a coal processing facility and four (4) auxiliary sites. The coal processing facility is located approximately 0.02 miles north from Mill Branch Road’s junction with US 23 and located 0.10 miles west of the Big Sandy River. The Latitude is 38°11’44”, Longitude 82°35’05”. Auxiliary Site No. 1 is located approximately 1.5 mile north of Burnaugh and is located approximately 0.04 miles north of Ky. Rt. 752’s junction with US 23. The Latitude is 38°16’55”, Longitude 82°34’50”. Auxiliary Site No. 2 is located approximately 3.0 miles south of Burnaugh and is located 1.0 miles south of KY. Rt. 707’s junction with US 23. The Latitude is 38°13’55”, Longitude 82°36’45”. Auxiliary Site No. 3 is located approximately 0.1 miles north of Louisa and is located approximately 1.0 miles north of Ky. Rt. 32’s junction with US 23. The Latitude is 38°07’10”, Longitude 82°37’03”. Auxiliary Site No. 4 is located approximately 0.9 miles south of Burnaugh and is located approximately 1.0 miles north of Ky. Rt. 707’s junction with US 23. The Latitude is 38°14’56”, Longitude 82°35’30”.

The proposed operation is located on the Louisa, Burnaugh and Prichard U.S.G.S. 7 ½ minute quadrangle map. The surface area is owned by Big Sandy Resources, Inc.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s Pikeville Regional Office, 121 Mays Branch Road, Pikeville, Kentucky 41501. Written comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

Published: March 28 and April 4, 11, 2025

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chocolate event set for Saturday

ASHLAND

The 27th annual Chocolate Extravaganza will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Ashland Town Center.

Attendees can purchase tickets to choose treats from vendors and themed baskets for all ages will be available at various prices for purchase.

The event will benefit Hope’s Place.

For more information, call (606) 325-4737 or email info@hopesplace.org.

BCC bridge winners named

ASHLAND

Bellefonte Country Club bridge winners for this week are: first — Jacque Brownstead; second — Juanita Ditty; third — Rosaline Hettel; fourth — Kay Memmer.

Russell Senior Center to reopen

RUSSELL

The Russell Senior Center will have its grand reopening at 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

Light refreshments will be served and door prizes are planned.

To RSVP, call Ruth Hopkins at (606) 922-8989 or Sheila Williams at (606) 254-7215.

The center is at 520 Bellefonte St.

Earth Day hike scheduled

OLIVE HILL

Earth Day Wildflower Hike will be at 5 p.m. April 22 at Carter Caves State Resort Park.

Those attending are asked to meet at the welcome center.

For more information, visit parks.ky.gov or call (606) 286-7009.

Staff reports

‘Working’ 10-year rule when applying for Medicare

Dear Toni,

In February, my husband, James, was laid off and decided to apply for an individual health insurance plan because he is 62 and could not apply for Medicare. I turned 65 in March and am having a stressful financial issue after enrolling in Medicare.



TONI KING

Now my Medicare is costing me \$518 for Medicare Part A and \$185 for Medicare Part B, totaling \$703 a month! I am completely shocked because my sister is only paying \$185.

I married James 32 years ago and haven’t worked much, because I stayed home to take care of our three children. I called the 800-number for Social Security, and the representative said that I had not worked enough time to have Medicare Part A at no cost and that this is my issue.

Please explain what I should do to correct my Medicare problem. Thank you, Toni!

-Wendy from Rosenberg, Texas

Hi Wendy:

Most Americans are not aware that they must work a certain amount of time, paying employment taxes, to receive premium-free Medicare Part A. This is most likely the cause of your problem. The Toni Says Medicare team helps resolve this issue quite often.

On the medicare.gov website, it states that to qualify for Medicare Part A at no cost you must have worked and paid Social Security and Medicare taxes from your payroll checks for 10 years or 40 quarters. For 2025, if you have paid Medicare taxes for 30-39 quarters, then the standard Part A premium is \$285 each month. If a person paid Medicare taxes for less than 30 quarters — the level at which you qualified, Wendy — then the premium for Medicare Part A is \$518 per month. The extra Part A premium amounts change on Jan. 1 each year, just like Medicare Part B premiums change.

However, those who do not qualify for premium-free Medicare Part A, but who have been married to a current or former spouse for at least 10 years who has met the 10-year requirement, should apply for Medicare under their working spouse’s Social Security number. Wendy, this is your issue, since you have been married for 32 years to James, and you should have applied for Medicare under James’s Social Security number.

My advice to you would be to contact your local Social Security office, since that is the government office which enrolls Americans in Medicare. Isn’t it amazing that it is not Medicare that enrolls Americans into Medicare, but Social Security? Wendy, visit Social Security at: www.ssa.gov/manage-benefits/make-an-appointment.

You need to schedule an in-person appointment with a local Social Security representative to be sure that your Medicare is processed properly. Ask them for help in appealing the Medicare Part A premium of \$518, because you have been a stay-at-home spouse with a husband who has worked enough quarters to qualify for premium-free Medicare Part A.

Social Security will look over your husband, James’s, Social Security accounts to verify with the IRS that he has enough quarters to qualify for premium-free Medicare Part A. Be prepared to provide a certified marriage license showing that you and James are married. You will have to provide the original certified marriage license (not a copy) to Social Security.

Those who did not work for 10 years or more to qualify and never married (or lived with someone as a domestic partner) and do not have a certified marriage license, will have to pay for their Medicare Part A premium. And if their spouse/domestic partner did not work enough quarters, they both will have to pay for their Medicare Part A premiums.

Readers don’t forget the “working 10-year rule” when enrolling in Medicare. What you don’t know about enrolling in Medicare WILL hurt you! (Chapter 1 of Toni’s Medicare Survival Guide Advanced edition can help you avoid problems like Wendy’s.)

TONI KING is an author and columnist on Medicare and health insurance issues. She has spent nearly 30 years as a top sales leader in the field. If you have a Medicare question, email info@tonisays.com or call 832-519-8664. The “Medicare Survival Guide Advanced” edition and her new “Confused about Medicare” video series are available at www.tonisays.com.

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Daily Independent ISSN 0744-6837 Copyright © 2020 by CNHI, LLC 224 17th St., Ashland, Ky. 41101 is published Daily except for Tuesday and Sunday and Christmas Day or 259 issues per year by CNHI, LLC. Business, Editorial, Accounting and Circulations offices: Daily Independent, 224 17th St., Ashland, Ky. 41101. Call 606-326-2674 to subscribe. Periodicals Postage Paid at Ashland, Kentucky.
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