

# Houck businesses ordered to stop sales of real estate, other assets

BY PETER W. ZUBATY  
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Sherry Ballard, mother of Crystal Rogers and administratrix of Rogers' estate, successfully filed an injunction against Brooks Houck and his real estate businesses in an effort to halt property sales ahead of a civil suit against Houck. Houck was convicted earlier this month of murder and tampering with evidence in the 2015 disappearance and presumed death of Rogers, and he is awaiting final sentencing after a jury recommended life in prison. Ballard originally filed a civil suit against Houck in December 2023 on behalf of four of Rogers' five children.

Nelson Circuit Judge Charles Simms III granted the motion late last week, ordering a halt to any property transfers on behalf of Houck, or his various businesses: Houck Rentals LLC, Select Quality Homes LLC and Central Kentucky Real Estate Rentals LLC. That would stand until an evidentiary hearing that is set for Oct. 8.

The move was made in response to a flurry of activity by Houck and his family members, including jailhouse phone calls made by Houck imploring family members to start selling property and equipment shortly after the murder trial ended.

"Plaintiffs have become aware from multiple sources, and file herewith evidence that Brooks, his relatives, and business associates are actively attempting to hide and/or transfer assets to shield them from any judgment that may be awarded in this action," according to a motion filed July 18 on behalf of Rogers' estate.

According to court records, Houck, through his various business entities, owns 83 properties in Nelson County

valued at about \$8.5 million. The motion filed by the Rogers estate documents several phone calls made between Houck and his sister, Rhonda McIlvoy, and to his girlfriend, Crystal Maupin, as well as his mother and brother, Rosemary and Nick Houck.

In a call to McIlvoy, Brooks Houck specifically mentions the pending civil suit:

"You know, because we're on that civil case is what's coming next. Do you understand? ... You know, so they're going to take everything. They're going to take everything I've got. So go ahead and try to get what you can for it."

Luke Raisor also swore out an affidavit stating that Rosemary Houck had called him on July 9, the day after Brooks Houck was convicted, offering to sell him 13 properties in the Cottage Grove Estates area. During that initial call, Raisor said Rosemary would call back with a price quote. However, Raisor said he didn't answer her follow-up calls nor did he return them.

While at least part of these efforts by Houck's family are to liquidate assets in general, at least a portion of those proceeds were to go toward settling a note with Springfield State Bank, possibly for as much as \$650,000.

Houck and co-conspirator Joseph Lawson are scheduled to be in court for sentencing Aug. 21 in Nelson Circuit Court. Lawson was convicted of conspiracy to murder and tampering with evidence, and the jury recommended 25 years in jail. Tried alongside Houck, his attorneys have filed a request for a new trial.

Lawson's father, Steven, was found guilty of the same charges as his son in a separate trial conducted in June. A jury recommended 17 years for Steven Lawson. His formal sentencing is set for next Wednesday in Nelson Circuit Court.

# High-speed chase prompts 14-count indictment

BY VICTORIA COX  
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

A 14-count indictment was issued for a New Jersey man accused of leading law enforcement on a two-county, high-speed chase which ended when the motorist crashed into a house and two vehicles in Hodgenville.

According to the original arrest citation, the Campbellsville Police Department attempted to stop a black SUV on Ky. 55 at approximately 11:09 p.m. May 24. The vehicle fled from CPD with speeds in excess of 100 mph onto Ky. 210. Although CPD lost sight of the vehicle, a Kentucky State Police trooper relocated it near the Sandy Y community traveling 76 mph in a 55-mph zone. The trooper's attempt to stop the vehicle was also unsuccessful, and the operator reportedly accelerated to speeds of more than 125 mph.

"The subject continued fleeing in a reckless manner using multiple lanes on 210 and passed a few vehicles," the citation stated.

The chase continued straight from 210 onto Greensburg Street in Hodgenville, where KSP eventually lost visual contact. The vehicle was found soon after where crashed into a house.

The traffic investigation revealed the vehicle left the roadway, striking two unoccupied vehicles and a residence, which was

occupied by two adults.

The driver, identified as 44-year-old Heman Patel, of Jersey City, New Jersey, was lodged in the LaRue County Detention Center after being medically cleared with no injuries at Baptist Health Hospital in Elizabethtown.

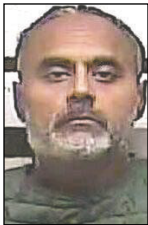
He received nine charges initially upon his arrest and the LaRue County grand jury returned a 14-count indictment last week.

Charges include three counts each of first-degree wanton endangerment and first-degree criminal mischief, two counts of first-degree wanton endangerment of a police officer and one count each of first-degree fleeing or evading police in a motor vehicle, reckless driving, failure to produce insurance card, failure to be in possession of an operator's license and/or show operator's license on demand, improper lane usage/vehicles to keep right except to pass and speeding 26 mph or more the over limit.

Authorities say he faces an additional 21 charges in Taylor County.

Of the 14 charges, nine are felonies. Patel could face more than 50 years in prison if sentenced to the maximum penalty for all charges.

An arrest warrant from the indictment was issued with a \$25,000 cash-only bond. Patel's arraignment in LaRue County is scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday.



Heman Patel

# Local students compete, bring home awards from SkillsUSA

BY THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

ATLANTA – Students from Hardin, Meade and Nelson counties joined others from across the state and around the nation to compete in the 2025 SkillsUSA Championships.

Kentucky took 79 students to compete in the championships June 23-27 in Atlanta.

SkillsUSA is the No. 1 workforce development organization for students, empowering them to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members. SkillsUSA Kentucky serves more than 3,500 students and instructors each year in middle schools, high schools and postsecondary schools.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the premier showcase of America's most highly skilled career and technical education students. It's also one of the largest hands-on workforce development events in the world. Held in conjunction with SkillsUSA's National Leadership & Skills Conference each June, the event features more than 6,700 state champions from across the United States, competing head-to-head in 114 skilled and leadership competitions.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the national culmination of a year-long process that begins in local SkillsUSA chapters across the country. Local winners advance to district or regional competitions, testing their skills against competitors from other schools. Those winners advance to state competitions each spring, and state gold medalists earn the right to compete nationally at the SkillsUSA Championships each June. Along with gold, silver and bronze medallions, competitors may earn scholarships, tools of the trade and even job offers right off the competition floor.

Local students who placed in the top 10 are:

**Meade County Area Technology Center:** James Abell, Lydia Benham, Daxton Blake, Elena Doman, Elizabeth Quillen, Shaune Reardon places eighth in the chapter business procedure competition.

**Meade County Area Technology Center:** Brayden Delaney placed 10th in the CNC 5-axis milling programmer competition.

**Nelson County Area Technology Center:** Keegan Powers placed eighth in the Internetworking competition.

Many Kentucky students also received



Submitted

**EC3 student Daniel Davidofsky competes in the culinary arts competition at SkillsUSA Championships in Atlanta.**

Skill Point Certificates. Central to these certifications are the expertise and industry-defined competencies compiled in the SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards.

Along with a national gold, silver or bronze medal, the Skill Point Certificate represents the pinnacle of achievement in demonstrating proficiency and workplace readiness in the student's occupational specialty.

The industry leaders who defined the competencies for each contest determined a cut score that indicates excellence for students in technical or leadership events. Contestants who meet or exceed the scoring threshold will earn a Skill Point certificate. Each certificate lists the competency areas tested in the contest and may feature the logos or names of the organizations and companies that planned and managed this

year's competitions. Students can place the certificate in an employment portfolio as an indicator of proficiency.

Those earning Skill Point Certificates to outstanding national contestants in the SkillsUSA Championships:

**Hardin County Schools Early College and Career Center:** Daniel Davidofsky, culinary arts and Nate Polley, carpentry.

**Meade County Area Technology Center:** James Abell, chapter business procedure; Lydia Benham, chapter business procedure; Daxton Blake, chapter business procedure; Elena Doman, chapter business procedure; Elizabeth Quillen, chapter business procedure; Shaune Reardon, chapter business procedure; and Mackenzie Shaffer, welding sculpture.

**Nelson County Area Technology Center:** Keegan Powers, Internetworking.

# Baptist Health Hardin advances lung care with new 3D bronchoscopy

BY THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Baptist Health Hardin has launched a powerful new upgrade to its Ion bronchoscopy program: 3D imaging technology.

The upgrade, considered the gold standard in lung cancer diagnosis, makes the Elizabethtown hospital one of just a few programs in the state to offer this level of diagnostic precision in lung cancer care.

With Kentucky leading the nation in lung cancer incidence and smoking rates, this investment offers transformative potential, a news release from the hospital said. The upgraded 3D Ion system enables physicians to identify and biopsy small lung nodules, often in hard-to-reach outer areas of the lung with greater speed, precision and safety.

"Lung cancer remains the deadliest cancer in America, and the reality is that too many of our patients are diagnosed at late stages," said Robert Ramey, hospital president, in the release. "This technology helps us change that story—right here, close to home."

## A NEW ERA IN EARLY DETECTION

The 3D Ion platform functions as a live CT scan in the procedure room, offering real-time navigation that enhances confidence and significantly reduces procedure time. It offers:

- More precise targeting of lesions as small as 5 to 8 mm, even in challenging locations.
- Faster procedures. Typical cases now are completed in nearly half the time, reducing a patient's time under anesthesia and expanding patient access to appointments.
- Improved diagnostic yield with as much as a 2 to 5% increase in diagnostic accuracy.

Finding lesions early, when they are smaller, allows for the most treatment options and improved patient outcomes.

"This technology transforms how we find and treat lung nodules," said Aaron Mulhall, MD, pulmonary and critical care physician, in the release. "It's like finding a needle in a haystack, but the haystack is always moving. The enhanced 3D capability allows us to lock in on the nodule quickly and accurately, giving patients the best chance at

a full, thriving life after cancer."

Baptist Health Hardin already has performed more than 700 procedures and anticipates continued growth in the number of patients served through this upgraded technology

These advancements reflect Baptist Health Hardin's mission to deliver excellence in care. In smaller, rural regions where early detection can be the difference between a full, healthier life and serious health complications, these investments are deeply personal, Ramey said.


"Our goal is to give every person in our community the greatest possible chance, not just to survive cancer, but to truly thrive beyond it," Ramey said in the release. "When we invest in advanced care, we're not only supporting individuals

on their cancer journey, we're strengthening families, uplifting neighborhoods and improving the health of our entire region."

## LOOKING AHEAD

In recognition of World Lung Cancer Day on Aug. 1, Baptist Health Hardin will host an informational table inside the main entrance to the Baptist Health Hardin Medical Pavilion, at 200 Cardinal Drive in Elizabethtown. Visitors can stop by to learn more about lung cancer prevention, early detection, and the upgraded 3D robot-assisted bronchoscopy program, as well as pick up resources on tobacco cessation.

For more information about our advanced lung cancer program, go to BaptistHealth.com/Hardin.



## LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR STREET CONSTRUCTION WITHIN FLOODPLAIN**

Notice is hereby given that Owens Family LLC (Managing Member – Walter Owens) of 35014 Shady Oak Lane; Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 has filed an application with the Department for Environmental Protection – Kentucky Division of Water to construct a street that connects Horizon Drive to College Street Road. The proposed street construction will place approximately 43,000 CF of fill within the floodplain of Freeman Creek. More than double the street fill volume will be excavated and removed from below the BFE to compensate for the loss of floodplain volume. Street address of proposed construction is 712 College Street Road within the city limits of Elizabethtown. Site is approximately 450 feet west of the Elizabethtown Bypass centerline and immediately northwest of the intersection of Freeman Creek and Valley Creek. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Surface Water Permit Branch, Flood Plain Management Section, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502) 564-3410





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