

Florida set to execute man for rape and murder from 1990s

BY KATE BRUMBACK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man convicted of raping and killing a woman three decades ago after kidnapping her from a supermarket parking lot in Florida is scheduled to be executed Tuesday.

Anthony Wainwright, 54, is scheduled to receive a lethal injection at Florida State Prison near Starke. He was convicted in the April 1994 killing of 23-year-old Carmen Gayheart, a mother of two young children, in Lake City.

Wainwright would be the sixth person put to death in Florida this year. The state also executed six people in 2023, but only carried out one execution last year. There are four executions scheduled around the country this week, including another one on Tuesday in Alabama. On Monday, an Oklahoma judge granted a temporary stay of execution for a man scheduled to be put to death Thursday.

The U.S. Supreme Court denied several of Wainwright's appeals Monday. His lawyers filed a last-minute effort to seek a stay of execution Tuesday morning, focusing on claims that he was improperly barred from hiring a lawyer of his choice under state law.

Richard Hamilton, the other man convicted in Gayheart's killing, was also sentenced to death. He died on death row in January 2023 at the age of 59.

Gayheart's sister, who plans to attend the execution, said three decades is too long to wait for justice.

"It's ridiculous how many appeals they get," Maria David told The Associated Press, adding that each step of the appeals process reopened her family's wounds. "You have to relive it again because they have to tell the whole story again."

Wainwright and Hamilton escaped from prison in North Carolina, stole a green Cadillac and burglarized a home the next morning, taking guns and money. Then they drove to Florida and when the Cadillac began to have problems in Lake City, they decided to steal another vehicle.

They confronted Gayheart, a community college student, on April 27, 1994, as she loaded groceries into her blue Ford Bronco, according to court documents. They forced her into the vehicle at gunpoint



Florida Department of Corrections

This photo provided by Florida Department of Corrections shows death row inmate Anthony Wainwright.

and drove off. They raped her in the backseat and then took her from the car and tried to strangle her before shooting her twice in the back of the head, court filings say. They dragged her body several dozen yards from the road and drove off.

The two men were arrested in Mississippi the next day after a shootout with police.

A jury in 1995 convicted Wainwright of murder, kidnapping, robbery and rape and unanimously recommended he be sentenced to death.

Wainwright's lawyers have filed multiple unsuccessful appeals over the years based on what they said were problems with his trial and evidence that he suffered from brain damage and intellectual disability.

Since his execution was scheduled, his lawyers have argued in state and federal court filings that his execution should be put on hold to allow time for courts to hear additional legal arguments in his case.

In a filing with the U.S. Supreme Court, his lawyers argue that his case has been "marred by critical, systemic failures at virtually every stage and through the signing of his death warrant." Those failures include flawed DNA evidence that wasn't disclosed to the defense until after opening statements, erroneous jury instructions, inflammatory and inaccurate closing arguments and missteps by court-appointed lawyers, the filing says.

The filing also says a jailhouse informant who testified at Wainwright's trial admitted last month that he and another informant had testified in exchange for lighter sentences, a fact that had not been disclosed to the defense.

David, Gayheart's sister, said she feels cheated that Hamilton died before the state could execute him.

She said she was "overcome with emotion" when she heard the governor had signed a death warrant for Wainwright. Her parents both died while waiting for justice to be served, she said, but she plans to be there to witness the final chapter of her family's tragedy.

"There's nothing that would keep me from seeing this all the way through," she said.

Her sister loved animals and surprised her by training to become a nurse rather than a veterinarian, David said. Gayheart was two years younger but became a mother first, and David said she marveled at her sister's patience with her young children.

"She was here, she mattered, she should be remembered, and she was loved," David said of Gayheart.

Over the years, David has kept a book with every court filing, from the initial indictment through the latest appeals.

"I'm looking forward to getting the last pieces of paperwork that say he's been executed to put into the book and never having to think about Anthony Wainwright ever again," she said.

Shelby sheriff endorses Cameron's senate run

BY STAFF REPORTS

LOUISVILLE — U.S. Senate candidate Daniel Cameron announced a "Law Enforcement for Cameron" coalition of local law enforcement officers and community leaders throughout the Commonwealth. The campaign kicked off the coalition with a roundtable discussion in Jeffersonton focused on key issues affecting Kentucky communities.

"I'm honored to stand with the brave men and women who protect our communities," said Daniel Cameron. "This coalition reflects a shared commitment to law and order, safer neighborhoods, and a Kentucky where every family can thrive without fear. As Kentucky's next U.S. Senator, I will continue to be a voice for law enforcement and ensure they have the tools and support they need to do their jobs and return home safely."

Public safety officials joined Cameron at the roundtable to share ideas and solutions for Kentucky's most pressing public safety challenges.

"Daniel Cameron understands the real challenges we face, not from behind a desk, but by standing with us on the front lines," said Bullitt County Sheriff Walt Sholar. "He's never wavered in his support for the men and women in law enforcement. I have no

doubt he'll carry that same unwavering commitment to Washington and be a strong voice for our community."

During the discussion, several in attendance stressed the need for more resources, training, and policies to combat violent crime, mental health issues, and drug trafficking.

"Daniel has been a steadfast ally of Kentucky's law enforcement," said Shelby County Sheriff Mark Moore. "Kentucky needs a U.S. Senator who stands shoulder to shoulder with officers and prosecutors. I am proud to stand with Daniel."

Cameron has long championed law and order and brings a proven record of standing up for the brave men and women in blue. As Attorney General, Daniel Cameron fought against violent crime, held traffickers accountable, and defended the role of law enforcement in keeping Kentucky safe.

Law enforcement officers across Kentucky are joining the coalition and endorsing Daniel Cameron for Senate.

Joe Milam, Sheriff, Anderson County

Jamie Reihls, Sheriff, Boyd County

Bobby Boody, Sheriff, Bracken County

Walt Sholar, Sheriff, Bullitt County

Bryan Ernstberger, County Attorney, Calloway County

Jim Daley, Jailer, Campbell County

Chad Weddle, Sheriff, Casey County

Tyler DeArmond, Sheriff, Christian County

Joe White, County Attorney, Clay County

Art Maglinger, Jailer, Daviess County

Brad Youngman, Sheriff, Daviess County

Jeremy Thompson, Police Chief, Elizabethtown

Rodney Kidd, Fmr. Police Chief, Lancaster

Shawn Hines, Sheriff, Lincoln County

Steven Gregg, Constable, Madison County

Jason Darnall, County Attorney, Marshall County

Eddie McGuire, Fmr. Sheriff, Marshall County

Bret Chamberlain, Jailer, Mercer County

Dale "Frog" Ford, Sheriff, Monroe County

Justin Hall, Jailer, Nelson County

Tim Wakefield, Sheriff, Oldham County

Steve Sparrow, Fmr. Sheriff, Oldham County

Jim Acquisto, Deputy Sheriff, Oldham County

Zackary Wilt, Public Safety, Oldham County

Mark Bess, Fmr. Sheriff, Owen County

Rick Brummett, Constable, Rockcastle County

Bill Elliotte, Sheriff, Whitley County

Blake Chambers, Commonwealth Attorney, 38th Judicial Circuit

Per-student spending now available in school report card data

BY STAFF REPORTS

Residents can now access updated financial data on public school districts, including per-student spending, with the latest release of the Kentucky Department of Education's School Report Card, state officials have announced.

The financial transparency section of the School Report Card, released June 5, includes information from the 2023-2024 school year and provides detailed data on school funding, grants, spending and taxes across each district. School-level per-student spending is also included.

According to a news

release from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), the financial data is published later than other sections of the report card to ensure accuracy by incorporating audited figures.

"This approach promotes greater accuracy of the district financial data," the department said in the release.

District staff are responsible for calculating the school-level per-student spending data, and the KDE advised that specific questions about these figures be directed to individual districts.

To give the numbers more context, districts had the option to include a brief financial narrative — limited to 750 characters — in the

Financial Summary section. The department said these summaries can help parents, community members and researchers better understand a district's financial picture.

While the updated School Report Card uses a new vendor, the Kentucky Department of Education noted that all previous datasets and district comparison tools remain consistent. Some visualizations and navigation features may appear different to users.

The full School Report Card, including the financial data, is available through the Kentucky Department of Education's website, education.ky.gov.

Measles cases climbing as CDC updates vaccine guidance for travelers

TODD MARTIN
NCDHD

With the summer travel season upon us, it's important to remember to pack your sunscreen for beach trips and check immunization schedules for foreign travel, but in 2025 there are some new recommendations.

Several measles outbreaks in the U.S. and Canada have led the CDC to update its international recommendations for MMR vaccines, which provides protection

against the measles. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control now emphasizes that all international travelers should be fully vaccinated with the recommended two doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine and that infants ages 6 months to 11 months that are traveling should receive an extra dose.

That means those infants, who routinely receive one dose between 12 and 15 months and another between 4 to 6 years old, would receive three doses.

This same recommendation was given in Texas where a 10-county outbreak led to more than 740 case since late January. This outbreak has put more than 90 patients in the hospital and has produced two fatalities in school-aged children.

In Ontario, Canada, more than 2,000 cases have been documented in an outbreak, and a premature baby recently died after contracting measles in utero from an unvaccinated mother.

The MMR vaccine is one of

the most effective vaccines available.

North Central District Health Department Public Health Director Roanya Rice stressed the importance and safety of the MMR vaccine, which is available at NCDHD's local health departments in Henry, Shelby, Spencer and Trimble counties.

"We strongly encourage everyone to stay on schedule with the MMR vaccine," she said. "This vaccine is safe and very effective. When vaccination is at its highest,

measles was considered eliminated from the U.S. in 2000 and there were fewer than 100 cases per year."

KENTUCKY CASES

So far Kentucky has been lucky with very little measles exposure.

In April, Kentucky health officials announced a second confirmed measles case reported in the commonwealth in a child who was traveling through the Kentucky when they sought treatment.

COUNCIL

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which made a total of four out of six members voice opposition to the development; therefore, the recommendation was accepted by the council.

As the crowd slowly made their way out of the meeting room, Eithington thanked them for coming out and showing their support for the community.

Gregory informed the council that they do not need to create an official ordinance for the recommendation, as it will take effect automatically on July 15.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

-Gregory reported that the food truck park committee, which is composed of Council Members Ivers and Zaring, has met several times and is nearing completion of text

amendments to their current zoning regulations regarding food trucks.

One of the text amendments includes amending the definition of a food truck to include the language "mobile food preparation units."

Once the text amendments have been drafted, the council will decide if they would like to send it to Planning and Zoning. From there, a public hearing will be held by the Triple S committee; the final step would be for planning and zoning to make a recommendation to the council.

During the several months of this process, the committee will also be creating a code ordinance to address food trucks directly.

"If everything works out, an ordinance accepting the text amendments as well as an ordinance addressing the code issues for both food trucks and food truck parks will be addressed by the council at the same time,"

said Gregory.

Council member Frank Page clarified that a food truck can be either a driveable vehicle or a trailer used for food preparation, to which Gregory agreed. A more in-depth definition will be released in the text amendments, according to Gregory.

Right now, the zoning regulations do not allow a food truck to remain in one location overnight or for more than 24 hours. Zaring reported that, through their committee meetings, they have discussed several food trucks that have been violating regulations and have seen these trucks receive more frequent citations.

The ordinance will not only apply to food trucks located inside the park but also to food trucks located anywhere in the city.

-City engineer and public works director Jennifer Herrel reported that she and her team are hard at work review-

ing new developments before they are heard by Planning and Zoning, adding stop signs to Town N' Country, beginning construction on restrooms and patios at the golf course, and preparing for the household hazardous waste event on Oct. 11.

-Eithington reported that the Shelbyville trolley will be giving free rides in June and July every Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. Pick-up locations will be on the corner of 11th and Main Street, 8th and Main Street, in front of Stargazer Plaza, and in front of the Public Library.

-Eithington also congratulated Derrick Griffiths on being named the new director of parks and recreation.

The next Shelbyville City Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, at 5:30 p.m.; however, due to the possible absence of several council members, the meeting may be canceled.

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