Boyd indictments include drug possession, child porn charges

BY MARY JANE EPLING

THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

A Boyd County grand jury issued several indictments last week, mostly consisting of drug possession, trafficking and crimes that often accompany addiction.

With the same charges (and sometimes people) presented week by week, one could conclude incarcerating the drug epidemic might not be so effective.

The only outliers last week included the ever prevalent charge of possessing child sexual abuse materials, failure to pay child support, using a stolen credit card and attempting to pass a forged check.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt. rather a jury of peers convened to hear evidence and testimony by prosecutors to determine if a case is solid enough to pursue a conviction.

The following individuals remain innocent until proven guilty and charges associated with them may be dismissed or amended during plea negotiation:

 Henry D. Hampton, 27, of Catlettsburg, was indicted on 20 counts of possessing or viewing

matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor under the age of 12.

Each count is a class C felony carrying a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison, if convicted.

Hampton is held in the **Boyd County Detention** Center on a \$150,000 full cash bond.

• Kasey F. Yates, 38, of Ashland was indicted on charges of public intoxication, simple possession of an unspecified controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

 Amber Clark, 33, of Huntington, was indicted on charges of first-degree promoting contraband and tampering with physical evidence.

· Charles Burns, 41, of Ashland, was indicted on charges of simple possession of heroin and first-degree, second-offense possession of methamphetamine.

 Olivia Mae Vincent, 22, of Ashland was indicted on charges of simple possession methamphetamine and heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Chandler L. Lawson, 31, of Ashland, was indicted on a sole count of simple possession of heroin.

• Jeffrey A. Koster, 38, of Kitts Hill, Ohio,

was indicted on charges of simple possession methamphetamine and public intoxication of a controlled substance.

 Connie L. Kruger, 63, of Richmond, was indicted on a sole count of trafficking in a controlled substance.

 Joshua D. Browning, 47, of West Liberty, was indicted on charges of trafficking in a controlled substance and theft by unlawful taking of an item valued between \$500 and \$1,000.

• Jessica J. Love, 34, of Ashland, was indicted on charges of fraudulent use of a credit card between \$1,000 and \$10,000

and identity theft.

· Norman L. Bowling, 45, of Flatwoods, was indicted on a sole count of criminal possession of a forged instrument.

The following were in-

dicted on a sole count of flagrant nonsupport:

• Jennifer L. Moore, 33, of Allen.

· John Wayne Fairchild, Jr., 50, of Van

· James David Hanners, 43, of Ashland.

• Kim R. Elliott, 40, of · Jeremiah Elliott, 30,

(606) 326-2652 |

of Ashland.

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Convicted killer arrested after 20 hours on run in Iowa

OTTUMWA, IOWA Police have arrested an Iowa man after he spent about 20 hours on the run from a jury verdict finding him guilty of first-degree Ottumwa Police Lt. Jason

Bell told the Courier police apprehended Gregory Showalter Sr. at his Ottumwa home at about 9:45 a.m. Saturday. He is being held without bond pending sentencing. Showalter, 63, of Ottumwa,

had been out on bail since August 2021. A court order then that allowed him to post just 10% of his \$250,000 bond required that he be subject to GPS monitoring, according to court filings. Bell told the Courier that Showalter had cut off his ankle monitor.

The jury reached a verdict at about 1:10 p.m. Friday after about five hours of deliberation. By 2:30 p.m., the court began to proceed without Showalter present. Bell, who was called to testify, said police had gathered evidence that Showalter shut his phone off at about 1:30 p.m. and left his residence on foot.

Judge Daniel Wilson ordered the verdict still be read without Showalter present,



Defendant Gregory Showalter Sr. enters the courtroom during a break in his first-degree murder trial at the Wapello County Courthouse in Ottumwa, Iowa, on Thursday.

citing Iowa court rules that allow such action provided Showalter is deemed voluntarily absent. Wilson made such a finding after testimony from Bell, and later ordered an arrest warrant be issued and Showalter's bond be can-

The jury found Showalter guilty of first-degree murder, abuse of corpse, willful injury causing serious injury, and domestic abuse assault by strangulation or impeding blood circulation. Showalter faces a mandatory sentence

of life in prison without parole for his conviction of first-degree murder.

Prosecutors say that on July 31, 2021, Showalter lured his 60-year-old wife Helen Showalter to a job site on Pennsylvania Avenue as the couple of more than 40 years was in the midst of a divorce. Prosecutors told the jury that Showalter killed his wife at the job site and later transported her to the Cliffland River Access area of the Des Moines River where he dumped her body.

She was reported missing

by family members that day and found the next morning floating in the river by a citi-

Showalter turned himself in to police on Aug. 3, 2021. His attorney, Robert Breckenridge, had successfully fought for a reduced bond. On Aug. 17, 2021, Judge Myron Gookin converted his \$250,000 cash-only bond to allow release upon posting of 10% of that amount. Showalter posted a \$25,000 bond the next day and was released from custody.

The order required that Showalter appear at all hearings, participate in pretrial supervision and be subject to GPS monitoring.

On Friday, Breckenridge told the court that he had phoned his client about the jury reaching a verdict in the case, and told him to appear at the Wapello County Court-

"When that did not occur and substantial time had passed, I became concerned about his welfare [and] contacted the judge and law enforcement asking that a welfare check be done at Mr. Showalter's home," Breckenridge said.

From there, Bell updated the court on the police's visit to Showalter's residence in Ottumwa. There they found a female outside the residence who was identified as a friend of Showalter's. She told police that Show-

alter handed her the keys to his vehicle "and made a comment about not needing those keys anymore." She believed he was going to walk to the courthouse. "While this was happening officers were checking the

roadways just on the offchance he was walking back to the courthouse," Bell said. "Subsequently, he has not been able to be located." Police deployed a trained

area. The dog followed a track to the Stardust Motel, about 1,000 feet from his residence, but wasn't able to locate Showalter. Officers also attempted to

tracking canine in a wooded

ping his cell phone, but the cell phone carrier told police the phone was shut off at approximately 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Sentencing has been set for 1:15 p.m. on Oct. 16. Wilson also ordered that the names and addresses of jurors be provided to local law enforcement for them to assist in protecting jurors who served on the case until Showalter is located.

ASHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ASHLAND Ashland Fire Department reports from Sept. 15 through Thursday.

Fires/Alarms/Hazardous conditions

Sept. 15: 3981 Valleyview Dr. for an odor investigation. Engine 3 checked the residence finding the cause to be power equipment stored in the basement.

Sept. 16: 1508 Lexington Ave. for a report of a structure fire. Crews arrived to find a light haze in the residence. It was determined there was a malfunction of the A/C unit that had caused the haze. Crews isolated the power to the A/C unit and ventilated the residence.

Sept. 17: 2221 Central Ave. for a fire alarm

sounding. Upon investigation it was determined that a curling iron caused the alarm. Crews were able to reset the alarm.

Sept. 17: 500 Winchester Ave. for a fire alarm sounding. Upon arrival crews were met by security who advised that it was pull station that had been accidently tripped and the alarm

was reset aiready.

Sept. 18: 2201 Lexington Ave. for a fire alarm sounding. Upon arrival crews were advised by security that a pull station had activated the alarm and the alarm

was successfully reset. **Sept. 18:** 21st St. for reported smoke in the area. Upon arrival crews checked the area find no smoke or signs of fire in

Sept. 19: State Street and Condit Street for a tree limb on a power line on fire. Crews arrived to find a tree limb smoldering on the powerline. Crews notified Kentucky Power and awaited their arrival to remove the limb.

Sept. 19: 1308 Kentucky Ave. for a structure fire. Crews arrived on scene to find a smell of smoke in the basement. Crews were able

to determine the vent for the natural gas water heater was blocked causing the odor in the basement. Crews shut down the water heater until they could get the vent repaired.

Sept. 19: 1705 Donna Court for a vehicle fire. Crews arrived to find the main body of the fire was already out. Crews used a water extinguisher to finish putting the Sept. 20: 3000 Central

Ave. for a fire alarm sounding. Upon arrival crews determined it was burned food on the stove they were able to ventilate the building and reset the alarm. **Sept. 20:** 506 9th St. for a fire alarm sound-

able to reset.

en Dr. for a power line

ing. Upon arrival crews found the alarm was caused by construction dust. Once the dust was cleared the alarm was

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE DEMOLITION BID REQUEST FOR STRUCTURE

The City of Ashland, Kentucky is currently accepting written bids for demolition with removal and disposal of the following property:

2116 Thomas Avenue

Specifications and requirements may be obtained by contacting Greg Weston, Building Inspector, at gweston@ashlandky.gov; during regular business hours at Ashland City Building, 1700 Greenup Avenue, Suite 208, Ashland, Kentucky or by telephone at 606-385-3317.

Written bids according to City of Ashland specifications will be received by the City Clerk, 1700 Greenup Avenue, Suite 403 until 3:00 PM, EST, October 12, 2023. At 3:15 P.M., EST., October 12, 2023, the bids will be opened and publicly read in the Commissioner's Chambers, Third Floor, City Building, 1700 Greenup Avenue, Ashland, Kentucky.

Published: September 25 & 27, 2023 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEMOLISH

The City of Ashland hereby advises, without further notice, that any persons claiming ownership, holding interest or other encumbrances at the real estate described herein below is hereby notified that the structures have been found unsafe and unfit for human habitation or use. Structures are to be repaired or demolished within thirty (30) days of the initial publication of

Failure to repair or demolish as specified above, or failure to obtain a restraining order within thirty (30) days of the initial publication date of this notice, will result in the City of Ashland, Kentucky causing all structures to be razed and removed. A lien for all associated demolition expenses will be charged against the real estate by the city.

2116 Thomas Avenue, Ashland, Kentucky For Inquiries Contact:

Published: September 25 & 27, 2023

City of Ashland Attention: Greg Weston, Building Inspector 1700 Greenup Avenue, Ashland, KY 41101 Phone: 606-385-3317 or Email: gweston@ashlandky.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE DEMOLITION BID REQUEST FOR STRUCTURE

The City of Ashland, Kentucky is currently accepting written bids for demolition with removal and disposal of the following property:

2434 Clinton Street

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smoking. Crews arrived tne area. to find a tree limb had fallen on a powerline and was smoking. Crews

> move the limb. **Sept. 20:** 506 9th St. for a fire alarm sounding. Upon arrival crews found the alarm was caused by construction dust. Once the dust was cleared the alarm was

awaited the arrival of

Kentucky Power to re-

able to reset. Sept. 20: 3400 Greenup



guished.

area that subjects were attempting to burn. The fire was extin-

Sept. 20: 1212 Bath Ave. for a report of a grass fire. Crews arrived to find a small area of the vard on fire and were able to quickly extinguish the fire with no damage to the building. Sept. 20: 29th Street

and Hilton Avenue for a trash fire. Engine 2 arrived to find a sofa in a yard on fire between two houses. Crews extinguished the fire with no damage to the residences. Motor vehicle

accidents **Sept. 15:** 2100 block

of Greenup Avenue for a vehicle vs. pedestri-Sept. 20: 3224 Pinehav-

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