

Humane Society volunteer, two others, face animal cruelty charges

Robert Moore
Herald Staff
 rmoore@harrodsburgherald.com

Four people—including the former president of the Mercer County Humane Society—have been indicted in connection to police discovering animals that had been mistreated, malnourished, and did not have proper living conditions at a Salvisa residence in August.

Three of the four people indicted—Gabriella A. Follmer, Amanda G. Coontz and Karen Aubrey, the former president of the Mercer County Humane Society—face multiple misdemeanor charges for intentionally or wantonly subjecting an animal to cruel treatment “through failing to provide adequate space, health and care and by subjecting the animal to cruel neglect,” according to the indictments. In addition, Follmer and Coontz also face a felony charge for torturing a dog, for intentionally restraining the animal “with wanton disregard for its pain, suffering and injury,” according to the indictments.

The indictments stem from a search warrant police executed at the home located at 2595 Oregon Road in Salvisa on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024. According to the uniform citation, “All the dogs living in the residence were badly injured and not fed properly.”

In addition, officers located drug paraphernalia and methamphetamine, according to the uniform citation.

The animals were taken to the Mercer County Animal Shelter. Director Wendy Quiggle said they were dealing with 24 dogs—three of them were in “bad shape,” Quiggle said. She said eight cats had been sent to the Mercer County Humane Society.

The Mercer Humane Society Board of Directors said they are closely following the matter related to the nine dogs from the humane society which were kept at the house in Salvisa, which they called a kennel owned by Aubrey. According to the board, Aubrey resigned as president and as a volunteer on Aug. 28.

“Throughout the year, those MHS dogs were taken to special events, including Bark in the Park, the Kentucky Heritage Jazz Festival, Shaker Village events, other festivals, as well as adoption events,” the board said in a statement. “They were also made available at the MHS office for meet and greet with prospective adopters. All nine dogs were happy, clean, and in excellent condition. All nine had been vetted, neutered or spayed. Any other dogs found at the facility belonged to an outside occupant, which may have caused a temporary overcrowding situation.”

“The humane society has been providing shelter and care for neglected, abused, and abandoned animals for more than 50 years and continues to be committed to rehabilitating them and connecting them with their forever homes,” the board said in the statement.

According to the board, Aubrey has been dedicated to helping animals in need for more than three decades.

“Those who have volunteered with her or who have been helped by her know that she is a wonderful and caring person who would never do harm to any animal,” the board said. “She has actually nursed all of the animals that came to her tortured, abused, and starving, back to good health. She has advocated for the animals and been involved in providing assistance and support to law enforcement in animal cruelty cases, such as the case in 2022 when two pit bulls were abandoned in a vacant home for weeks and were at the point of death when discovered.”

The board is referring to the case of Rocket and Titan, two dogs that were found to have been abandoned without food or water after their owners moved out of Mercer County back in 2022. The owners pleaded guilty to two counts of 2nd degree animal cruelty in 2023, and were both sentenced to 365 days to serve for each count, totalling 730 days each. Aubrey would bring one of the dogs, Titan, to the courthouse to advocate for changes

in Kentucky’s notoriously lax animal cruelty laws.

“As a result of Ms. Aubrey’s aftercare, these dogs were in the process of being rehabilitated as the MHS reached out to the community to seek adopters or fosters,” the board said in their statement. “The Board stands committed to continuing in this endeavor.”

Here are the indictments versus the Mercer Grand Jury handed up last week in relation to the case:

- Gabriella A. Follmer, 53, of 2595 Oregon Road, Salvisa, was charged with 1st degree possession of methamphetamine and torture of a dog, both class D felonies, and 30 class A misdemeanors: one count of possession of drug paraphernalia and 29 counts of 2nd degree animal cruelty. Follmer’s bail was set at \$10,000 with drug-related conditions: reporting to pretrial services, submitting to random drug testing and no new arrests involving alcohol, illegal substances or pain medications with or without a prescription. In addition Follmer is restricted from having animals in her possession.

- Amanda G. Coontz, 31, of 2595 Oregon Road, Salvisa, was charged with 1st degree trafficking in methamphetamine, a class C felony; torture of a dog, a class D felony; and 30 class A misdemeanors: one count of possession of drug paraphernalia and 29 counts of 2nd degree animal cruelty. Coontz’s bail was set at \$20,000 with drug-related conditions and she is also restricted from having animals in her possession.

- Karen Aubrey, 71, of 2595 Oregon Road, Salvisa, was charged with 29 class A misdemeanor or counts of 2nd degree animal cruelty. Aubrey’s bail was set at \$2,000 and she is also restricted from having animals in her possession.

- Kenneth Brawner, 48, of 2595 Oregon Road, Salvisa, was charged with 1st degree trafficking in methamphetamine, a class B felony, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class A misdemeanor. Brawner has previously been convicted of similar offenses in Mercer Boyle and Bullitt

counties, according to the indictment. His bail was set at \$20,000 with drug-related conditions.

Cpl. Chase Hale (Harrodsburg Police Department) testified.

In addition, the Mercer Grand Jury handed up the following indictments. All charges are merely allegations. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt in a court of law.

DRUG CHARGES

- Carl B. Helton, 33, of 227 Sims Pike, Georgetown, was charged with two class A felonies, 1st-degree trafficking in methamphetamine and aggravated trafficking in fentanyl, as well as possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, a class B felony. Helton is being charged as a persistent felony offender

Paul A. McFerron, 30, of 247 Stone Avenue, Lexington, was charged with 1st-degree trafficking in methamphetamine, a class C felony, and aggravated trafficking in fentanyl, a class B felony.

All offenses are alleged to have happened Oct. 10, 2024, in Mercer County, with Helton and McFerron acting in complicity, according to the indictment. Helton’s bail was set at \$50,000 while McFerron’s bail was set at \$20,000. Their bail has drug-related conditions, which include reporting to pretrial services, submitting to random drug testing and no new arrests involving alcohol, illegal substances or pain medications with or without a prescription. Patrolman Dustin Mikal (Harrodsburg Police Department) testified.

- Charles Ray Murphy, 45, of 450 Raven Street, was charged with 1st degree trafficking in methamphetamine, a class C felony; trafficking in methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a school, a class D felony; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class A misdemeanor. On or about July 24, 2024, Murphy was found to have knowingly and unlawfully possessed methamphetamine and a glass pipe within 1,000 feet of a school building used primarily for classroom instruction, accord-

ing to the indictment. Bail was set at \$10,000 with drug-related conditions. Sgt. Sean Brown (MCSO) testified.

- Kayla S. Hadley, 21, of 100 Thistle Road, Frankfort, was charged with 1st degree possession of methamphetamine, a class D felony, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class A misdemeanor. Both offenses are alleged to have happened on July 26, 2024, in Mercer County, according to the indictment. Bail was set at \$5,000 with drug-related conditions. Patrolman Hunter Kelly (HPD) testified.

THEFT

- Zachary D. Tarkington, 39, of 509 Moreland Avenue, was charged with theft by deception, a class D felony, and theft by failure to make required disposition of property, a class A misdemeanor. Between June 1, 2024, and Oct. 30, 2024, Tarkington is alleged to have taken \$1,025 in cash under fraudulent pretenses as well as obtained property valued at \$550 and intentionally failing to make the required disposition, according to the indictment. Bail was wet at \$5,000. Tarkington was

also charged with another class D felony count of theft by deception. Tarkington is alleged to have taken \$2,000 in cash under fraudulent pretenses from another victim on May 15, 2024, according to the indictment. Bail was wet at \$5,000. Chief Scott Elder (HPD) testified in both cases.

- Cinnamon Tatum, of 280 Russell Branch Road, was charged with 1st degree bail jumping, a class D felony. Tatum failed to appear for a status hearing at Mercer Circuit Court on Nov. 6, 2024, according to the indictment. Bail was set at \$5,000. Commonwealth Attorney Detective Ashley Curtis testified.

BAIL JUMPING

The Harrodsburg Herald
 Published By The Harrodsburg Herald, Inc.
 each Thursday
 859-734-2726
 Periodical Postage Paid at Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Subscription rates by mail in Mercer and adjoining counties per year \$40.00. Elsewhere in Kentucky \$53.25 (State tax included.) Outside Kentucky \$67.50. Online e-edition \$24.95.

POSTMASTER - Please send address change to:
The Harrodsburg Herald, P.O. Box 68, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

For subscription or change of address, clip coupon and mail to:

The Harrodsburg Herald
P.O. Box 68, Harrodsburg, KY 40330

New Subscription _____ Renewal _____

Change of Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please enclose check for new or renewal subscription.

The Harrodsburg Classifieds

04 Help Wanted

Looking for someone who can clean house on a flexible schedule who is a good organizer & dependable. One to two days a week, but one day is acceptable. Call 859-325-3482.

Check your ad for accuracy. The Harrodsburg Herald will not be responsible for errors after the first printing.

14 Services Offered

LeMayne Ellis, DVM
Bluegrass Animal Hospital
 210 Morris Drive, Harrodsburg, Ky.
Grooming by Amanda
**Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:00;
 Sat. 9:00-12:00**
Phone 734-5546

21 For Rent

FOR Rent - 2 bdrm townhouse, no pets, \$700 mo., \$800, 859-368-1255

FOR RENT 2 HOUSES

1) 4 bdrm, 3 ba
 2) 2 bdrm, 2 ba
 Both with w/d hookup on Adams Lane
 859-613-4240

Berkshire Apartments 1 Bedroom Upstairs Apt Available Now

Ask About Our Security Deposit Payment Option

Call, Email Or Visit Us Today
 830 North College St., Harrodsburg, Ky
 Ph: 859-734-5343
 TDD: 800-648-6056

Professionally Managed By
WINTERWOOD INCORPORATED
 www.WinterwoodOnline.com

24 Legals

Notice to Creditors: Administration has been granted by the Mercer District Court upon the following estates. All persons having claims against said estate are notified to present them to the fiduciary verified according to law not later than six months from the date of qualification of personal representative.

Gary Best, 2663 New Dixville Rd., Harrodsburg and Jerry Best, 1930 Perryville Rd., Harrodsburg, App. 11/7/24, Atty: Jessica Wilkerson, P.O. Box 1, Harrodsburg
 Della I. McQueary, Dec'd., Exrx. Debra Bottom, 437 Cresthill Dr., Harrodsburg, App. 11/8/24, Atty: Norrie Currens, 122 Mooreland Ave., Harrodsburg
 Linda J. Sexton, Dec'd., Exec. Scott Jessen, 19112 N. W. 170th Ln., High Springs, FL 32643, App. 11/8/24, Atty: Norrie Currens, 122 Mooreland Ave., Harrodsburg
 Frances Galloway, Dec'd., Admx. Dongayla Burgess, 3119 Sarah Ln., Danville, KY 40422, App. 11/8/24
 James K. Shouse, Dec'd., Admx. Regina A. Coulter, 961 Short Rd., Salvisa, KY 4372, App. 11/8/24
 Belve L. Collier, Dec'd., Exrx. Stephanie Collier, 476 Lakeview Point, Harrodsburg, App. 11/8/24, Atty: Whitney Johns, P.O. Box 1, Harrodsburg

Charles D. Patrick, Dec'd., Exrx. Meghan C. Patrick, 151 Virginia Ave., Harrodsburg, App. 10/17/24, Atty: Sarah Bryant, P.O. Box 1441, Danville, KY 40422
 Roy L. Sallee, Dec'd., Exrx. Donna Weller, 70 Chestnut Dr., Columbus, MS 39705, App. 10/28/24
 Kevin T. Davis, Dec'd., Admx. NaKayla Key, 108 Valley View Dr., Campbellsville, KY 42718, App. 10/25/24, Atty: Whitney Johns, P.O. Box 1, Harrodsburg
 John T. Robinson, Dec'd., Exec. Brent Sanders, P.O. Box 422, Burgin, KY 40310, App. 11/1/24
 Harold B. Keeling, Dec'd., Co-Exec's Wm. Keeling, 2055 May Ave., Louisville, KY 40217 and Ruth Coanougher, 1101 Mackville Rd., Harrodsburg, App. 11/1/24
 Guy H. Simmons, Jr., Dec'd., Exrx. Lydia M. Simmons, 714 Kenesaw Ln., Lenoir City, TN, 37771, App. 11/1/24, Atty: Michael Reynolds, Ste. 800, 301 E. Main St., Lexington, KY 40507
 Ruby T. Best, Dec'd., Co-Exec's

Mercer District Court and ordered to lay over until 12/06/2024 for exceptions. If by that time they will be approved and confirmed.

Mary G. Martin, Dec'd., Final Settlement; Admx. Deborah G. Blankenship
 Patsy S. Walter, Dec'd., Final Settlement; Co-Exec's JoAnn S. Williams and Karla Herron

MERCER COUNTY COURT NEWS

DIST. CRIMINAL

The following cases are on record in the Mercer County Circuit Court clerk’s office:

(Editor’s Note: The following abbreviations appear throughout court news: ADE - alcohol and drug education classes; EPO/DVO - emergency protective order/domestic violence order.)

Matthew Keith Haggard, public intoxication on a controlled substance, five days to serve, probation one year.

Joshua Horn, invalid registration plates, \$25 fine.

Jacob Lunsford, driv-

ing on a DUI-suspended license, 45 days to serve, probation two years.

Steven Tyler Carrier, speeding 14 MPH over the posted limit, \$28 fine.

Christian Andrew Vernon, speeding 20 MPH over the posted limit, state traffic school.

Heather R. Cracraft, careless driving, \$25 fine; no license in possession, \$25 fine.

April Yocum, local county ordinance, \$50 fine.

Francis D. Clayton, 4th degree assault—domestic violence (minor injury), 270 days to serve, probation one year.

DEEDS

The following prop-

erty transfers are on record in the Mercer County Clerk’s office:

Wanda J. Kinder to Jose and Gudelia Sorcia Robles, property located in Mercer County, \$68,000.

WG Agriculture LLC to Central Kentucky Feed LLC, property located in Mercer County, \$250,000.

Wes and Joan Huffman to Paula-Kay Gordon, property located in Mercer County, \$273,000.

Vicki McRay to Shannon L. and Ernest L. Hopkins II, property located in Mercer County, \$22,500.

Keith E. and Connie

G. Smith to Mason Sterling Smith, property located in Mercer County, \$149,500.

Calvados Freedom Properties LLC to EZO Properties LLC, property located in Mercer County, \$90,000.

Dana and Bradford Keith Stone to Aaron and Lyndsey Carpenter, property located in Mercer County, \$495,000.

Barry D. and Kathy J. Carrender to James C. Ross, property located in Mercer County, \$255,000.

Betsy D. Isham to B&R Investment Properties LLC, property located in Mercer County, \$200,000.

POLICE NEWS

The following cases have been or are currently being investigated by the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) or Harrodsburg Police Department (HPD). The information is drawn from police reports and public records at Boyle County Detention Center (BCDC). Anyone with information on cases still under investigation is urged to contact the HPD at 859-734-5120 or the MCSO at 859-734-4221. Unless otherwise noted, all subjects

are being held at BCDC.

All charges are merely allegations. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Crimes: Monday, Nov. 18

- Madeline Josee Creech, 23, of Harrodsburg, was served with two warrants for failure to appear. Arrest: Patrolman Austin Price (HPD). Released after posting bonds worth \$650.

Wednesday, Nov. 20

- Gregory Carroll Black, 42, of Harrodsburg, was arrested and charged with 1st degree possession of methamphetamine. Arrest: MCSO, Bond: \$5,000.

Friday, Nov. 22

- Damon A. Norris, 49, of Lancaster, was arrested and charged with 1st degree possession of methamphetamine. Arrest: Patrolman Zach Carrico

(HPD). Released on a \$5,000 bond.

- Devon Gabrielle Litz, 30, of Hendersonville, Tenn., was arrested and charged with 1st degree possession of fentanyl, possession of drug paraphernalia and careless driving. Arrest: Patrolman Austin Price (HPD). Released on a \$5,000 bond.

- John Christopher Montgomery, 51, of Harrodsburg, was served with a warrant for contempt of court. No bond.