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Registered sex offender found camping near playground

Homeless suspect tells police he has 'nowhere else to go'

BY STAFF REPORTS

A registered sex offender found camping near the playground area of the Owen County Fairgrounds was taken into custody Nov. 2.

Michael Scott, 56, was charged after police responded to a suspicious person complaint on Fairgrounds Road, according to a citation on file in Owen County District Court.

A caller told police Scott was living in the woods next to the walking track and was causing alarm after several people saw him.

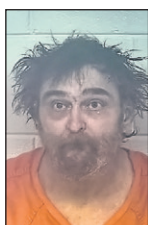
Police located Scott laying on a sleeping bag about 40 feet from the walking track with what appeared to be juveniles walking near him, according to the citation.

Scott told police he was homeless and had nowhere else to go, according to the citation.

Police said Scott was recently arrested for the same reason and told he cannot reside next to the playground. Scott responded that he knew he was not supposed to be there but had nowhere else to go.

Scott was charged with third-degree criminal trespassing and violating sex offender restrictions. He was initially

held on \$1,000 cash bail and was scheduled to appear Nov. 21 for a preliminary hearing in Owen District Court.



Michael Scott

MAN CHARGED WITH PUNCHING, SLAPPING WOMAN

A Worthville man was charged Nov. 15 after a woman claimed he punched her in the ribs, slapped her in the face, grabbed her by the hair and slammed the back of her head into a chair, according to a citation on file in Owen County District Court.

Police arrested and charged Gregory Scott Burns, 64, of Bucks Run Road after being called to his residence on a

report of domestic violence.

The victim left the residence and went across the street to call 911, police said in the citation. She told police about the assault and complained that she was having trouble breathing. Police describe her in the citation as being "very distraught."

The victim was evaluated by Owen County Emergency Medical Services but declined to be transported to an area hospital, police said.

Burns, who told police no physical altercation took place, was charged with fourth-degree assault and ordered held on \$1,000 cash bail. He was scheduled to be arraigned Nov. 21 in Owen County District Court.

MAN CHARGED WITH METH, HEROIN POSSESSION

A Shelbyville man wanted on three warrants for his arrest was taken into custody Nov. 14.

During a search, police said they found a black container in his pants pocket that contained 7 to 10 grams of crystal methamphetamine and a baggie that contained approximately 1 gram of heroin, according to a citation on file in Owen County District Court.

Charged with two counts of first-degree possession of a controlled substance was Harold Cox, 36, of La Grange Road.

He was scheduled to be arraigned Nov. 21 in Owen County District Court.

SHOWING THEIR RESPECT

Students serve breakfast, offer salute to area veterans

BY MADISON WRIGHT
CORRESPONDENT

Owen County students hosted local veterans Nov. 11 to show their respect and honor them on Veterans Day.

Sponsored by the school's Civics Club, the event was a school- and community-wide effort that featured a rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" by the Owen County High School Band; a musical performance by Quinton Miller and a presentation of "America, the Beautiful" by Owen County Elementary students.

The keynote speaker for the

event was state Sen. Gex Williams.

"OCHS would like to give a big thank-you to our district's principals for allowing students to attend, the bus garage for providing transportation and the Owen County Schools food services for providing breakfast," said Maison Hedger, vice president of the Civics Club.

Staff members Jacob Roberts, Suzanne Roe and Tamara Morris handled the logistics of the program while Civics Club members put in the work.

Some of them decorated the gymnasium, served breakfast or ushered guests to their seats. Pat Beverly donated her time and skills as she took on decorating the stage, and several local businesses donated as well.

High school senior Christian SEE **VETERANS/PAGE A2**



Veterans enjoy a breakfast courtesy of the Owen County Schools food services department during the Nov. 11 Veterans Day ceremony at the high school.

School board receives state report data

BY ANN CARTER
CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Board of Education were given the Department of Education's annual report card for the Owen County School District during Monday's November meeting.

The report card serves as a tool for analyzing the performance of schools within a community, providing insight into various metrics. It can also assist parents, educators and residents in understanding how well their school is serving its students.

The primary element of the report card is academic performance, which includes three testing categories: math and reading, science, social studies and writing, and school safety and climate.

These indicators can help gauge whether students are meeting state-wide standards. By analyzing the data, stakeholders can make informed decisions to advocate for

improvements.

The climate and safety rating is based on a survey students fill out pertaining to questions regarding the environment at school, including interaction with staff, discipline, and social media.

Brian Gognat, director of instruction support, said, "It is important to note that the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are still influencing student performance." He went on to say the learning gaps created during that period remain evident, not only in Owen County but across the Commonwealth and the nation.

The high school overall rating was a low with a score of 57.3.

The high school also received scores for post-secondary readiness and graduation rates. With an impressive high-rate score of 90.8 for post-secondary readiness, the high school boasting a gain from last year's score. The graduation rate was held

at a medium status with a score of 92.9.

The middle school's overall rating was a low rate with a score of 37.8

The elementary school's overall rating was a low rate with a score of 52.3.

"Our third graders are the true covid students," Elementary Principal Jaclynn Fink went on to explain those students did not attend a full school year until they reached second grade due to covid restrictions.

"Our mission is to provide opportunities and resources where all students will develop perseverance and a passion for life-long learning in a safe, supportive, educational environment." Regarding the approach the Owen County District takes with its kids, Brian Gognat went on to say, "This commitment remains unwavering, and we will continue to prioritize the development of resilience and a love for learning in our students."

Missing Owenton man found safe

BY STAFF REPORTS

An Owenton man who went missing for nearly 24 hours was found safe Tuesday morning by first responders.

Dawson Matthew Grimes, 21, walked off Monday morning and was last seen headed toward the Kleber Wildlife Management area in Owen County.

Deputy Emergency Management Director Tim Cammack said he was found about mile across the Franklin County line and was safe.

Cammack said Owen County Emergency Management teamed up with the Owen County Sheriff's Office, Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and first responders from Franklin and Grant counties to conduct the search.

He said they used a state police helicopter and four different drones to search the area.

"In the past he has been known to seek shelter and hide out," Cammack said, who added Grimes has no medical issues and is in good physical shape but has mental challenges.

As the search expanded Monday, along with using the state police helicopter and drones, first responders searched wooded areas and

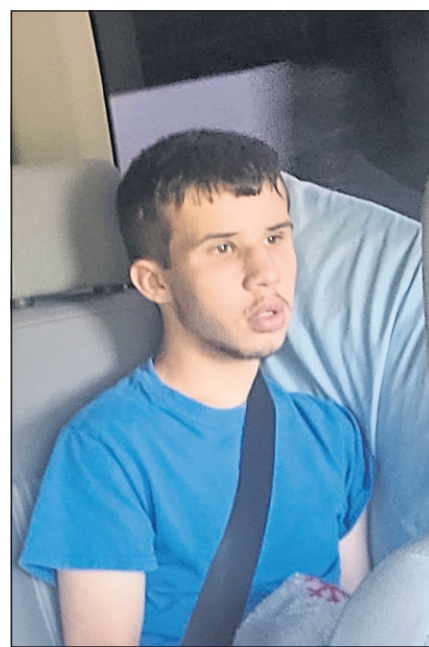


Photo furnished

This image of Dawson Matthew Grimes was distributed by Owen County Emergency Management after the 21-year-old went missing Monday morning. He was found safe and uninjured Tuesday about a mile over the Franklin County line.

patrolled the roads. "There's a lot of wooded area around there," he said.

INDEX

OPINION
CHURCH
CLASSIFIEDS

A6
A6
A7



INSIDE

Board of education recognizes fall athletes

PAGE A4

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6 84578 20095 8