

Man arrested after allegedly pointing firearm at bystanders

BY LARRY SPICER

On February 27, officers with the Barbourville Police Department received a complaint about a male subject identified as Charles “Danny Henson.”

According to the citation, Henson was reported to have been on a four-wheeler pointing a gun at people on Dickerson St. Officers observed Henson’s four-wheeler at his residence and stopped to talk with him.

Henson allegedly advised that he went to Tanyard Cemetery and then came straight home.

He also claimed that he had never pulled a gun on anyone or stopped at any place other than the cemetery. However, Henson did advise that he had a .357 revolver. Officers then went out to the victims residences to which witnesses provided video showing Henson allegedly on his four-wheeler looking towards the residence in question.

Two of the alleged victims provided statements to police that



Charles Henson

Henson allegedly pointed his pistol towards them and threatened to kill them.

Other witnesses stated that they observed Henson pointing the weapon towards the victims.

Henson was charged with wanton endangerment and terroristic threatening. He was arrested and transported to the Knox County Detention Center where he was lodged on a \$5,000 cash bond.

Henson is due to appear in court on March 11.

HOPPER

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returned to UK to resume law school where he obtained his law degree in 1973. He then returned to Barbourville, where he opened his law practice. He later joined the National Guard, serving as Judge Advocate General, following his time in the United States Air Force. He retired from duty with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Hopper served in elected positions as District Judge and later as Circuit Judge, and served until his 2005 retirement. Before retiring, Hopper served Knox and Laurel Counties’ first Family Court and was instrumental in creating the first Drug Court.

Faithful to his family, church, and community, he served on various committees and with several organizations, including the Masons

and Shriners International. Along with his mother, Esther “Bitty” Hopper, he worked to help create the Senior Citizen Center in Barbourville.

In addition to his wife Marcia, Hopper leaves behind a large family, including daughters Wendy and Kristin and their families.

In honor of Judge Lewis Hopper, flags at all Knox County government facilities will be lowered to half-staff until after memorial services have been held. “Judge Mike Mitchell and the Knox County Fiscal Court extend our deepest condolences to Judge Hopper’s family, friends, and all who were touched by his service and dedication to our community. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time,” a post read on the Knox County Fiscal Court Facebook page.

A full obituary for Lewis Black Hopper can be found on page A8 in this issue.

PARK

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job recruitment will always be a priority.”

In a statement from the Knox County Fiscal Court, Mitchell added, ““We would like to thank

the Knox County Industrial Development Authority members for their support and for agreeing to manage this property moving forward. Additionally, we are grateful to Governor Beshear, the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Senate President Robert Stivers, Representative Tom Odell Smith, Bruce Carpen-

ter, CEO of Southern Kentucky Economic Development, the Knox County Fiscal Court, and Whitley County Judge-Executive Pat White for their leadership and commitment to this initiative. This is what regional support looks like, and it is a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together.”

SEX CRIMES

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He died on February 24. A trooper-involved shooting investigation is being conducted by Kentucky State Police in the case.

Broughton-Jones was charged with a total of 32 counts by the Grand Jury. Of those, six counts were for Use of a Minor in a Sexual

Performance in which the minors’ genitalia was displayed for the defendant’s camera on two or more occasions; four counts were for Incest, in which the defendant is charged with, acting alone or in concert with others, had sexual intercourse with the minors on two or more occasions; six counts of Rape in the First Degree for engaging in sexual intercourse with

the minors through the use of forcible compulsion on two or more occasions; two counts of Possession of Matter Portraying a Sexual Performance by a Minor by knowingly or unlawfully having in her possession matter which visually depicts a sexual performance by a minor person under the age of 12 years; six counts of Promoting a Sexual Per-

formance by a Minor by knowingly producing, directing or promoting a performance which includes sexual conduct by a minor under the age of 16 years; two counts of Distributing Matter Portraying a Sexual Performance by a minor by knowingly and unlawfully bringing into the state for distribution matter portraying a sexual per-

formance by a minor under the age of 12 years; and six counts of Sodomy in the First Degree by engaging in deviate sexual intercourse with the minors through the use of forcible compulsion on a child under the age of 12 years old on two or more occasions.

Broughton-Jones is due back in Knox Circuit Court at 9:30 a.m. on Friday,

March 28, 2025.

The investigation is ongoing by Sgt. Townsley. He was assisted by School Resource Officer Glenn Taylor, Officer Colby Patterson, Sgt. Eric Martin, the Texas Department of Public Safety, Knox County Victim’s Advocate Renia Owens, and the Kentucky Department of Community Based Services.

TERRORIST

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Tactical in Barbourville, seeking to purchase an American-made firearm. He was shown a Smith and Wesson Shield Plus 9mm handgun and inquired about the use of a high-capacity magazine for the weapon. Bharwad completed the required ATF Form 4473, supplied by the business, and produced a Kentucky operator’s license and a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) employment authorization card. All identification confirmed the identity of Maurya Bharwad.

After Bharwad completed the ATF form, the business owner submitted the information to the FBI National Insta-Check System (NICS) for a background

check, which resulted in a delay notification for the background check, meaning the sale of the firearm could not proceed at that time. The business owner reported that Bharwad’s behavior changed after he was informed the purchase couldn’t be completed, to which Bharwad said he needed the firearm “no matter what the government says.” According to the indictment, Bharwad was adamant about leaving with the firearm and was holding the unloaded gun and neared the exit of the store where another employee stood between Bharwad and the door, leading both the business owner and his employee to place their hands on their concealed handguns due to the customer’s erratic behavior. The business owner retrieved the firearm and ushered Bharwad

out of the business.

The ATF Form 4473 was provided to law enforcement, and it was confirmed that Bharwad is who he said he was. He is a native and citizen of India. The form inquired about drug use and addiction as part of the application process. Bharwad checked the box for “no.”

The attempted firearm purchase was not the first time Bharwad had raised suspicions. According to the indictment, Sgt. Townsley was aware that Bharwad had recently been reported for “exhibiting strange behavior at a local church.” A church member, who is also a volunteer deputy sheriff, stated to Barbourville Police it appeared Bharwad was “attempting to survey various rooms inside the church and was

behaving in a strange manner,” and “appeared to be acting nervous and was fidgeting.”

Following those concerns and the incident at the firearm store, Sgt. Townsley contacted Bell County law enforcement officers to be on the lookout for Bharwad and his vehicle. At the time, Barbourville Police Department was in the process of obtaining an arrest warrant for the firearm store incident.

Bharwad was apprehended by Bell County Deputy/Detective Hunter Luttrell. After Bharwad was arrested, Sgt. Townsley and ICE Special Agent Frank Keyton interviewed him at the Barbourville Police Department, where the interview was recorded, and Bharwad was advised of his constitutional rights and agreed to speak

with the officers. Bharwad acknowledged he had a marijuana addiction and was high at the time he attempted the firearm purchase.

During the interview, Bharwad was asked if he had “searched anything about firearms on his cell phone,” to which he said he had not. He did state, however, that he had searched for “how to make a bomb” in the past and had devised a plan “to use a bomb in the tunnels located in New York City and shut the city down.” When asked why, he stated something bad happened to him in New York, and he had thoughts in his head to commit crimes.

Additionally, Bharwad admitted his immigration status in the United States was not legal, that he was “out of status” on his stu-

dent F-1 Visa, to which Special Agent Keyton confirmed to be accurate.

A search at Bharwad’s Bell County Highway 92 residence revealed marijuana residue.

Bharwad remains incarcerated in the Knox County Detention Center and is due to appear on March 27, 2025 in United States District Court in London for arraignment.

Among those assisting in the arrest were the Bell County Sheriff’s Office and Pineville Police Department. Each department involved released their own statements concerning the arrest of Bharwad from the perspectives of the law enforcement officers involved. The information contained in this story was gleaned mostly from the federal indictment filed against Bharwad in U.S. District Court.

MSHA

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the MSHA office.

The agency, founded in 1977, exists to prevent injury, illness, and deaths in mines. It does its job with safety inspections of coal mines, assessing workplace conditions for safety concerns and haz-

ards, and when needed issues enforcement actions including citations and orders against offending mine owners, lessees and operators.

The news of the cut comes as House Bill 196 awaits action in the Kentucky Senate. The bill would effectively weaken mine safety by eliminating the need for two mine

emergency technicians (METs) in Kentucky’s coal mines. The bill’s sponsor, Rep. John Blanton, Republican, who represents Knott, Magoffin and part of Pike County, “has argued small mines are being temporarily shut down by not having two METs available on site, hurting productivity and impacting miners’ paychecks,”

the Kentucky Lantern reported on Monday.

An email sent to the Barbourville MSHA office on Monday, received a response on Tuesday from Frances Alonzo, Safety and Health Press Officer for

OSHA, MSHA and OWCP. The response said, simply, “The General Services Administration (GSA) exercises jurisdiction over federally managed buildings. Please connect with GSA directly at press@gsa.

gov to ensure you have the most accurate information.”

The future of the office is uncertain, as is the many positions employed at the Barbourville office.

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