

# Federal Jury Awards \$108,000 to K. Petroleum in Lease Dispute

LONDON, KY —A federal jury has ruled in favor of K. Petroleum, Inc., awarding the natural gas company \$108,000 in damages following a lease dispute with a Clay County property owner.

The verdict was delivered on April 15 in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky in London. After a two-day trial, the jury found that Bernice Hubacek, the property owner, had breached the terms of an oil and gas lease by excluding K. Petroleum from accessing the wells located on her land.

K. Petroleum filed the lawsuit in January 2022 after a dispute arose over continued access to three natural gas wells located on Hubacek's property on Huckleberry Fork. Two of the wells had been drilled by the company in 2001, and all three had been operated by K. Petroleum for years.

Hubacek, who purchased the land in 2019, countered with her own claims

against the company, but the jury ruled in favor of K. Petroleum on all counts and denied the counterclaims.

In a statement, Jam Khorrami, President of K. Petroleum, expressed relief at the outcome.

"We were very pleased with the outcome of this trial and certainly feel vindicated," Khorrami said. "In every situation, our company tries to do right by the landowners we work with, and we did everything we could in this case. Difficult, dangerous, and costly situations like this create real problems for our company, our employees, and our customers—including industry partners, businesses, and people that depend on us for house gas."

K. Petroleum was represented by Scott Webster of London.

K. Petroleum, Inc. is a natural gas exploration company based in Gahanna, Ohio, with over 700 oil and gas wells and leases in southeast Kentucky.

# AdventHealth Golf Scramble slated for Friday, April 25th

MANCHESTER, Ky. — Golfers, mark your calendars! AdventHealth Manchester is excited to announce the return of its annual Golf Scramble, scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2025, with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start at the Big Hickory Golf Course.

Open to players of all skill levels, the event promises a full day of friendly competition, great prizes, refreshments, and community camaraderie — all in

support of a worthy cause. Teams of four will compete in a classic scramble format, making it easy for beginners and seasoned golfers alike to enjoy the day.

Participants will also have the chance to win exciting prizes and connect with fellow golf enthusiasts from across the region.

Registration is now open at <http://give-man.adventhealth.com/scramble>. Early registration is encouraged, as space is limited.

## GRAY

**From A1**

According to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in London, Anthony Gray is accused of conspiring to distribute methamphetamine from June 2023 through September 2024. The charge falls under Title 21 U.S.C. § 846, which deals with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances.

The case was investigated by DEA Task Force Officer Hunter Nelson, who also serves with the Somerset Police Department. In his sworn affidavit, Nelson described a complex operation in which Gray allegedly used encrypted messaging apps like Telegram and Signal to purchase meth from a drug vendor based in Southern California.

According to investigators, Gray not only made purchases for himself but also charged others for training them on how to order drugs via these platforms. A cooperating witness (CW1) told agents that Gray charged \$1,500 for instruction and acted as a go-between to "vouch" for new buyers, giving them direct access to the source of supply.

Packages containing methamphetamine were reportedly shipped from California to Kentucky using the U.S. Postal Service and other carriers. Postal records show multiple parcels addressed to "Anthony Gray" and an alias, "Austin Gray," sent to Gray's residence on Pistol Creek Road in London, Kentucky. Authorities believe the alias was used to conceal Gray's involvement.

In one intercepted parcel, the USPS seized \$6,000 in cash allegedly sent by Gray to the California-based vendor—money that Gray later told the cooperating witness he believed had been stolen when the drugs never arrived.

When Gray reached the transaction limit on his digital payment accounts, he reportedly began using others' CashApp accounts to funnel payments to the vendor, according to the affidavit.

The total amount of methamphetamine purchased by the cooperating witness, under Gray's guidance, is believed to exceed 500 grams, or over one pound.

Gray now faces serious federal charges as the investigation continues. The case was signed and approved by U.S. Magistrate Judge Hanly A. Ingram.

If convicted, Gray could face substantial prison time under federal drug trafficking statutes.

## CAMPBELL

**From A1**

with the news.

"We've waited a long time to get this answer," Hoskins said about the family. "Today brings us closure in one aspect of David's disappearance."

According to Clay County Sheriff Patrick Robinson, the grim discovery was made by two men repairing a fence to contain their donkey. The men came across a human skull and bones just off Kentucky Highway 66, less than half a mile from where Campbell lived.

Deputy Coroner Rhonda Smith and deputies Coty Arnold and Jeremy Gabbard worked through the night to collect evidence from the scene. In addition to skeletal remains, several articles of clothing were also recovered. The search continued the following morning as officials scoured the area for additional remains.

At the time of the discovery, Sheriff Robinson said the remains were located near the residence of a man who had been missing since 2020. Although initial suspicions pointed to Campbell, formal identification was delayed pending DNA analysis in partnership with the Kentucky State Police.

David Campbell, 49, was last seen on October 22, 2020, walking along KY-66 near his home. A massive search was launched in the days that followed, but no trace of him was found. Campbell, who was disabled and suffered from Parkinson's disease, was under the care of Danny and Gloria Gibson at the time. On the day he went missing, the Gibsons contacted family members in the area asking if anyone had seen him.

Sheriff Robinson said the department is not releasing further information due to the ongoing investigation, but confirmation of the remains has brought closure to a mystery that has haunted the Big Creek community for years.

"This has been a long and painful journey for the Campbell family," Sheriff Robinson said. "We hope this news brings them some measure of peace."

The investigation into the circumstances surrounding Campbell's disappearance and death remains open.

## STIVERS

**From A1**

pattern of deception and fraud, highlighting the seriousness of his crimes.

The government's memo points to Stivers' previous convictions, including a 2017 guilty plea for conspiring to defraud the United States, for which he received probation and home detention. That sentence, prosecutors argue, failed to deter him. In 2022, he was sentenced to 10 months in prison for continued tax violations—yet even after that incarceration, Stivers allegedly failed to file tax returns and underreported income from his consulting work.

Assistant U.S. Attorney William P. Moynahan, who submitted the memorandum, emphasized that Stivers' background as a tax professional made his actions particularly egregious. "As a former CPA, the defendant was highly aware of the IRS's reliance on the truthfulness of taxpayers," the memorandum states. "He used that knowledge to manipulate the system for personal financial gain."

The document also notes that Stivers has the financial means to pay restitution and resolve his outstanding tax liabilities, yet has not done so. Authorities say he previously requested a delay in sentencing to liquidate assets and pay restitution, but no payment has been made to date.

Federal prosecutors stress the need for a meaningful sentence not only to punish Stivers but to send a clear message to others. "A non-custodial sentence would send the wrong message to this repeat offender," the filing reads. "It is important for the Court to fashion a sentence that reflects the seriousness of the offense, promotes respect for the law, and deters others."

The government is recommending a 12-month term of incarceration, stating that it would be "sufficient, but not greater than necessary" to satisfy federal sentencing requirements under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

Stivers is scheduled to be sentenced on May 6<sup>th</sup> in U.S. District Court in London, Kentucky.

## DARKNET

**From A1**

small-town departments can have when working alongside federal partners," said Chief Jeff Couch of the Manchester Police Department. "Our officers are proud to have helped take part in dismantling a criminal operation that affected communities not just here, but across the country."

According to Sabbagh's plea agreement, from January 2017 to October 2021, he conspired with others to produce and sell counterfeit generic alprazolam pills. The pills, stamped with markings to mimic legitimate pharmaceuticals, contained benzodiazepine-class substances that have no accepted medical use in the U.S.

Operating through darknet marketplaces, Sabbagh used multiple vendor accounts to sell the fake pills across the United States, including within Eastern Kentucky. The group accepted payment in cryptocurrency and shipped thousands of pills to unsuspecting buyers. Sabbagh managed customer interactions, collected orders, and coordinated with co-conspirators who handled manufacturing and shipping.

Over the course of the conspiracy, investigators estimate that Sabbagh and his network trafficked more than \$25 million worth of counterfeit alprazolam.

Sabbagh was arrested in Switzerland in December 2023 and had been in custody since, according to the court record.

Under federal law, Sabbagh must serve at least 85 percent of his 78-month sentence. After release, he will be subject to three years of supervised probation. Additionally, he agreed to forfeit cryptocurrency and assets tied to the scheme, including a \$5,055,377 forfeiture judgment, representing his personal profits from the operation.

The sentence was announced by Acting U.S. Attorney Paul McCaffrey, alongside officials from the DEA, IRS-CI, FBI, and Manchester Police Department.

"This outcome reflects the dedication and persistence of our law enforcement teams, from local police to federal agents," said McCaffrey. "Their work has dismantled a dangerous network and sent a strong message about the consequences of trafficking counterfeit drugs."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Rosenberg prosecuted the case for the United States.

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