

KENTUCKY NEWS

Judge orders DNA testing of hair samples in Rogers case

Samples came from Rogers' car

BY PETER W. ZUBATY
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

New evidence is being tested in relation to the disappearance and suspected killing of Crystal Rogers in Nelson County. Nelson Circuit Judge Charles Simms issued an order for hair samples recovered from Crystal Rogers' abandoned vehicle to undergo DNA testing as potential evidence in her murder case.

Rogers disappeared during the July 4 weekend in 2015. She is presumed dead, but her body never has been found. In late 2023, her ex-boyfriend, Brooks Houck, was indicted on murder and tampering with physical evidence charges.

Steven Lawson and his son, Joseph Lawson, also were charged with conspiracy to murder and complicity to tampering with physical evidence. All three men remain

in jail, with Houck and Joseph Lawson going to trial in June. Steven Lawson is scheduled to be tried in late May.

The hairs to be tested were lifted from a search of Rogers' car, but never tested to determine the DNA of the sample.

"During the investigation of this matter there were two hairs located in the victim's vehicle that have never had DNA analysis performed," Special Prosecutor Shane Young, Hardin County Commonwealth's Attorney, wrote in a motion last week.

"The hairs were inspected by the Kentucky State Police Laboratory who determined that they were not similar in characteristics to the victim's hair," the motion continues.

The KSP Lab determined in September 2016 if the two hairs from Rog-

ers' car were submitted for DNA testing, they would be consumed. At that point, it was decided that those two samples would not be tested.

At that same time, another hair sample was found in the trunk of a car owned by Anna Whitesides, who is Brooks Houck's grandmother. That sample was submitted for testing. A court filing from 2016 reads that Jack Reid of the KSP Lab determined the hair from Whitesides' car "appeared to be similar to the decedent's (Rogers) hair."

Attorneys for Houck and Joseph Lawson agreed with the order for their clients to submit to a buccal cheek swab to obtain a DNA sample from them. Steven Lawson, however, did not agree to this.

The hairs from Rogers' car and the swabs from Houck and Joseph Lawson will be tested by BODE Technology.

Monticello resident arrested after Sunday morning killing

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

A 60-year-old Monticello man was arrested and charged with murder Sunday by Kentucky State Police Post 11 following an early morning shooting.

The post in London reported that at approximately 4:15 a.m. Sunday, Wayne County 911 called to report a man had been found at a Monticello residence on Cart Bell Ridge Road, with an apparent gunshot wound.

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office initially responded, and after determining that foul play may have been involved, requested assistance of state police to conduct a formal investigation, the release said.

The victim was identified as Berry Rainer Rose III, 46, who was found

outside his home. Rose was pronounced dead at the scene by the Wayne County Coroner's Office.

Following an investigation, KSP troopers located and apprehended Norman E. McGuire of Monticello at a residence on Circle Road. McGuire was arrested and charged with murder in connection with the death. He was lodged in the Wayne County Detention Center.

Detective Keegan Bray is leading the ongoing investigation with assistance from KSP's Post 11 London investigative team, the Wayne County Sheriff's Office and the Wayne County Coroner's Office. The police statement issued Monday said further details would be released when available.



Norman E. McGuire

LEGAL NOTICE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable Mayor,
City Council and City Clerk of
City of Campbellsville, Kentucky

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the business-type activities of City of Campbellsville, Kentucky (the "City"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the business-type activities of the City as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the City of Campbellsville, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the City of Campbellsville's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Campbellsville, Kentucky's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the City of Campbellsville, Kentucky's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, the budgetary comparison information, the City's proportionate share of net pension, and net OPEB liability schedules, and the schedules of pension and OPEB contributions on pages 4 through 9 and pages 40 through 54 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consist of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge obtained during our audit of basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements. The additional information shown on pages 58 through 59 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards on pages 55 through 56 are presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, and are also not a required part of the basic financial statements of the City of Campbellsville, Kentucky.

The additional information shown on pages 58 through 59 are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and records used to prepare the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the information found on pages 58 through 59 are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated March 3, 2025 on our consideration of the City of Campbellsville, Kentucky's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of Laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters.

The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City of Campbellsville, Kentucky's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Wise, Buckner, Sprowles & Associates, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants
Campbellsville, Kentucky

CITY OF CAMPBELLVILLE, KENTUCKY PROPRIETARY FUND CAMPBELLVILLE MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM STATEMENT OF NET POSITION June 30, 2024

Assets:	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,002,275
Accounts receivable - trade (net of allowance)	580,690
Accounts receivable - other	-
Inventory	668,544
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	4,089,145
Total current assets	7,340,654
Noncurrent assets:	
Land and construction in progress	1,534,446
Capital assets net of accumulated depreciation	44,578,961
Net OPEB asset	91,756
Total noncurrent assets	46,205,163
Total assets	53,545,817
Deferred outflows of resources:	
Debt Refunding	8,334
CERS - OPEB	456,031
CERS - OPEB contributions	29,970
CERS - Pension	687,582
CERS - Pension contributions	514,725
Total deferred outflows of resources	1,696,642
Liabilities:	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable - trade	160,552
Accrued payroll and related expenses	240,766
Customer deposits	46,435
Accrued interest	37,522
Current portion of lease liabilities	168,800
Current portion of notes payable	1,211,143
Current portion of bonds payable	126,000
Current portion of compensated absences	62,640
Total current liabilities	2,053,858
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Noncurrent portion of notes payable	8,961,380
Noncurrent portion of lease liabilities	589,750
Noncurrent portion of bonds payable	4,085,500
Noncurrent portion of compensated absences	240,174
Net OPEB liability	0
Net pension liability	4,264,540
Total noncurrent liabilities	18,141,344
Total liabilities	20,195,202

On-duty Muldraugh officer accused of drinking on job

BY KODEE BRINEGAR
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

A police officer was arrested after he was found drinking while on duty.

Muldraugh Officer Jay Burke was arrested Thursday and charged with first offense driving under the influence and reckless driving.

According to a statement from Muldraugh Police Chief Tim Jackson, Burke has been removed from duty. "Officer Burke has been suspended without pay while we proceed with the termination process. He has been relieved of all responsibilities within the City of Muldraugh," Jackson said in the release. "We would like to extend our gratitude to Kentucky



Jay Burke

State Police and the Meade County Sheriff's Office for their support during this serious matter."

Jackson said the city is actively collaborating with the KSP and the Meade County sheriff to ensure that responses to calls remain seamless during this time.

The Muldraugh Police Department has a zero-tolerance policy for this type of violation of duty, Jackson said.

According to the release, Burke and Jackson responded to a call at an apartment complex when the chief detected a strong odor of alcohol coming from Burke's breath.

Jackson ordered Burke to return to the police

department, where he was questioned by the Mayor Anthony Lee, the city clerk and Jackson.

Burke consented to a preliminary breath test and it registered his blood alcohol level to be .077, according to the release. The legal limit is .08 for a DUI in Kentucky.

After administering the test, Jackson contacted KSP to conduct a field sobriety test and a Intoxilyzer 8000 test on Burke.

Once KSP finished their assessments, Jackson contacted Meade County Sheriff Phillip Wimpee, who confirmed they would take over the case.

According to a news release from the sheriff's office, Burke has been charged and lodged in the Meade County Detention Center.

Kentucky Reads announces its 2025 discussion selection

List of scholars available to lead group settings

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Kentucky Humanities has selected "Savory Memories" edited by L. Elisabeth Beattie for its 2025 Kentucky Reads.

The organization said the novel will serve as a focal point for community-wide book discussions that promote a shared literary experience and celebrate the voices and stories that shape Kentucky's cultural landscape.

Kentucky Reads offers scholar-led discussions of "Savory Memories" to community organizations throughout the Commonwealth. Any non-profit organization in Kentucky can host a discussion of Savory Memories for a booking fee of \$50 and each host organization will be provided with 10 copies of the book to share among participating members. Publicity materials to promote the discussion also will be provided.

A list of scholars can be found at kyhumanities.org/programs/kentucky-reads-savory-memories.

New this year, organizations may opt for a discussion leader who will drive the group conversation and also can offer a writing prompt and direction for individuals who may want to share their own memories of food and family. The book intertwines personal essays and cherished recipes from some of Kentucky's most esteemed writers, offering readers a journey through the Commonwealth's culinary and cultural heritage. With contributions from Joy Bale Boone, George Ella Lyon, Ronni Lundy, Ed McClanahan, Sena Jeter Naslund and Richard Taylor,



each essay reflects on the connections between food, family and memory, providing a tapestry of Kentucky's diverse traditions.

"This collection not only showcases the literary talents of Kentucky writers, but also emphasizes the universal experience of sharing meals and stories," Bill Goodman, executive director of Kentucky Humanities, said in a news release announcing the 2025 selection. "It's a celebration of our state's history, culture and the bonds that unite us."

Previous Kentucky Reads selections include Robert Penn Warren's Pulitzer-Prize winning "All the King's Men," Wendell Berry's "Hannah Coulter," Crystal Wilkinson's "The Birds of Opulence," Bobbie Ann Mason's "Dear Ann," Kim Michele Richardson's "The Book Woman's Daughter" and, last year, Fenton Johnson's "Scissors, Paper, Rock."

Kentucky Humanities is a non-profit Kentucky corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For information about Kentucky Humanities' programs and services, including Kentucky Reads, go to kyhumanities.org.