

Lawson appeals for new trial after guilty verdict

BY PETER W. ZUBATY
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Steven Lawson was found guilty May 30 for his role in the 2015 disappearance and presumed death of Crystal Rogers, however, it didn't end altogether when the jury recommended a 17-year sentence.

Attorneys Darren Wolff and Zach Buckler, who represented Lawson in the four-day trial in Bowling Green, filed a motion Wednesday in Nelson Circuit Court requesting a new trial or an acquittal, claiming Lawson was denied a fair trial.

Lawson was found guilty in Warren Circuit Court — where the trial was moved in order to secure a jury pool

untainted by extreme media coverage of the case — of conspiracy to murder and complicity to tampering with physical evidence.

In the motion, Lawson's attorneys claim:

- The court did not provide proper jury instructions in accordance with Kentucky law for the charge of conspiracy to murder, leading to confusion by the jury.
- The court "erred by prohibiting the Defendant from testing two hairs found in Crystal Rogers' car in 2015." Attorneys argued during the case that by testing the hairs, another suspect in her disappearance could have been identified through national DNA databases.
- That "proper decorum"

was not observed during the trial, and that jurors were potentially influenced to rule against Lawson, noting the number of pink shirts worn by family and friends of Rogers and how that tied into the "Team Crystal" movement.

- That the defense team wasn't provided enough time to review all the evidence in advance of the trial, and that Nelson Circuit Judge Charles Simms III did not accede to their requests to delay the trial. The evidence provided by the prosecution exceeded 400,000 pages of written documents, and hundreds and hundreds of hours of audio and video recordings. Wolff and Buckler were brought on to the case

last summer after Lawson fired his original attorney, Ted Lavit.

• That Elizabeth Chesser, a witness for the prosecution, spoke with Rogers' mother, Sherry Ballard, during a court recess while she was under oath. They also allege that statements made during Chesser's testimony proved prejudicial to Lawson. Chesser has a child by Lawson's son, Joseph, who goes on trial later this month, and Chesser's mother had been dating Steven Lawson in the past.

- That when text messages between Steven and Joseph Lawson were read and viewed during the trial, Simms did not properly instruct the jury to consider Joseph Lawson's

texts as hearsay.

- That the trial schedule was "problematic" and that "it appeared to the Defendant that there was urgency to have the trial concluded by Friday, so as to prevent the jury from having to return on Monday." Wolff and Buckler stated in the motion that the jury, during its three-hour deliberation time, "failed to deliberate the nuances of this case."

- That the Commonwealth, led by Special Prosecutor Shane Young, did not provide direct evidence that Steven Lawson entered into an agreement with accused murderer Brooks Houck to kill Rogers, and that it did not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Lawson

participated in the conspiracy.

Because of these reasons, Wolff and Buckler claim that Lawson's rights were denied in accordance with Section 2 of the Kentucky Constitution and the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. They are asking for a new trial for Lawson, or a judgment notwithstanding the verdict.

Brooks Houck, Rogers' ex-boyfriend, is charged with murder and tampering with evidence, and Joseph Lawson — like his father — is charged with conspiracy to murder and complicity to tampering with physical evidence. Their trial begins June 24 in Warren Circuit Court, with Simms presiding.

Sovereignty wins Belmont Stakes at Saratoga

BY SPENCER RIPCHIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Sovereignty outran

Journalism on Saturday in a Kentucky Derby rematch in the 157th Belmont Stakes at Saratoga Race Course, the race once again

showcasing the best in horse racing.

Like last year, it featured the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winners.

However, unlike last year and for the first time since 2018, one of those two won to secure two of the three legs of the Triple Crown.

"I think they are three really good horses," Sovereignty trainer Bill Mott said. "I'm glad (Sovereignty) was able to come back and have a race like he did in the Derby."

It was the second Belmont win for Mott. He spends most of his summer tending to his horses at Saratoga, so winning the Belmont at Saratoga was extra special.

"This is home," Mott said. "It's the race we were pointing for after the Derby,

and fortunately it worked out very well... The horse was good. Junior rode him well."

It was the second Belmont at Saratoga, with renovations being made to its usual home at Belmont Park on Long Island.

Rodriguez, who made his Triple Crown debut, burst out and led the field of eight in the 1 1/4-mile race until the top of the stretch when Journalism made a surge. Followed closely behind was Sovereignty, with jockey Junior Alvarado aboard. He caught Journalism almost instantly and ran away with it.

The 5-2 second favorite finished in 2:00.69, beating Preakness winner Journalism by three lengths.

"He broke very well again today like he's been doing," Alvarado said. "He put himself in a good spot. I was a little shocked how close, but at the same time, I'm happy with how easily he was doing everything. As a jockey, I was very happy where he was."

Journalism ended up in second again, and Baeza was third — the same 1-2-3 as the Kentucky Derby. Journalism, the only horse to run in all three legs, entered the gate at the Belmont as the 2-1 favorite, with Baeza the third favorite at 7-2.


Sovereignty paid \$7 to win, \$3.20 to place and \$2.30 to show. Journalism returned \$3.20 and \$2.30, and Baeza paid \$2.60.

Sovereignty led off the first leg of the Triple Crown by winning the Derby in early May. The colt also edged Journalism in that race.

After the Derby win, the Godolphin-owned 3-year-old opted out of the Preakness

SEE **BELMONT/PAGE B8**

SQF/LQF Solar: Single-Axis Tracking; Distribution; 2-Year PPA; Capacity	\$0	\$0
SQF/LQF Solar: Single-Axis Tracking; Distribution; 7-Year PPA; Capacity	\$12.53	\$0
SQF/LQF Solar: Single-Axis Tracking; Transmission; 2-Year PPA; Capacity	\$0	\$0
SQF/LQF Solar: Single-Axis Tracking; Transmission; 7-Year PPA; Capacity	\$12.03	\$0
SQF/LQF Solar: Fixed Tilt; Distribution; 2-Year PPA; Capacity	\$0	\$0
SQF/LQF Solar: Fixed Tilt; Distribution; 7-Year PPA; Capacity	\$15.09	\$0
SQF/LQF Solar: Fixed Tilt; Transmission; 2-Year PPA; Capacity	\$0	\$0
SQF/LQF Solar: Fixed Tilt; Transmission; 7-Year PPA; Capacity	\$14.49	\$0
SQF/LQF Wind; Distribution; 2-Year PPA; Capacity	\$0	\$0
SQF/LQF Wind; Distribution; 7-Year PPA; Capacity	\$9.88	\$0
SQF/LQF Wind; Transmission; 2-Year PPA; Capacity	\$0	\$0
SQF/LQF Wind; Transmission; 7-Year PPA; Capacity	\$9.49	\$0
SQF/LQF Other Technologies; Distribution; 2-Year PPA; Capacity	\$0	\$0
SQF/LQF Other Technologies; Distribution; 7-Year PPA; Capacity	\$8.74	\$18.53
SQF/LQF Other Technologies; Transmission; 2-Year PPA; Capacity	\$0	\$0
SQF/LQF Other Technologies; Transmission; 7-Year PPA; Capacity	\$8.39	\$17.80
LG&E is proposing the following revisions to other charges in its Gas tariff:		
Other Charges	Current Charge	Proposed Charge
Returned Payment Charge	\$3.70	\$3.00
Meter Test Charge	\$112.86	\$119.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Service Charge	\$32.00	\$51.00
Inspection/Additional Trip Charge	\$155.00	\$180.00
Unauthorized Connection Charge – no meter replacement	\$49.00	\$51.00
Unauthorized Connection Charge – meter replacement	\$114.00	\$133.0
Advanced Meter Opt-Out Charge (One-Time)	\$33.00	\$85.00
Advanced Meter Opt-Out Charge (Monthly)	\$5.00	\$9.00
Daily Storage Charge for Daily Imbalances (TS-1 and LGDS)	\$0.3797	\$0.3797
Gas Meter Pulse Relaying Non-FT Non-TS2	\$28.00	\$33.00
Gas Meter Pulse Relaying FT/TS2	\$8.00	\$9.00
Excess Facilities – w/ no CIAC	1.12%	1.44%
Excess Facilities – w/ CIAC	0.44%	0.68%
A detailed notice of all proposed revisions and a complete copy of the proposed tariffs containing the proposed text changes, terms and conditions for electric or gas service and rates may be obtained by submitting a written request by e-mail to myaccount@lge-ku.com or by mail to Louisville Gas and Electric Company, ATTN: Rates Department, 2701 Eastpoint Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, 40223, or by visiting LG&E's website at https://lge-ku.com/lge-2025-rate-case.		
A person may examine LG&E's application at the office of LG&E located at 2701 Eastpoint Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, 40223, and at LG&E's website at https://www.lge-ku.com/lge-2025-rate-case. A person may also examine this application at the Public Service Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or may view and download the application through the Commission's Web site at http://psc.ky.gov.		
Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission by mail to Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, or by email to at psc.info@ky.gov. All comments should reference Case No. 2025-00114.		
The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by LG&E, but the Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice. A person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of initial publication or mailing of the notice, the Commission may take final action on the application.		



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
TRIMBLE COUNTY FISCAL COURT
Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The second reading and adoption of the Trimble County Fiscal Court proposed budget ordinance for the fiscal year, is scheduled to be held at the date, time and location listed below.

Date: **06/23/2025**
Time: **09:15 am**
Location: **Trimble County Fiscal Court Meeting Room**

BUDGET SUMMARY
AN ORDINANCE Relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.
BE IT ORDAINED by the Trimble County Fiscal Court, Kentucky:

WHEREAS, the proposed budget was tentatively approved by the Trimble County Fiscal Court, and approved as to form and classification by the State Local Finance Officer, on the dates listed below:

Approval by the Fiscal Court: **05/12/2025**
Approved by State Local Finance Officer: **05/30/2025**


SECTION ONE. The following budget is adopted for the fiscal year specified herein, and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.

General Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,272,774.39
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	1,508,200.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	327,900.00
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	12,000.00
5400	RECREATION AND CULTURE	90,200.00
6000	TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES & SERVICES	8,000.00
7700	LEASES	121,558.44
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS	80,000.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	252,100.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	1,030,365.32
9300	TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE	1,028,500.00
9500	DISTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER GOVT AGENCIES	20,000.00
Total		5,851,598.15
Road Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	500.00
6100	ROADS	2,134,906.23
7700	LEASES	106,794.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	50.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	45,529.68
9300	TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE	188,000.00
Total		2,475,779.91
Jail Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	376,169.82
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	500.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	5,450.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	14,500.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE	57,000.00
Total		453,619.82
Local Government Economic Assistance Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	27,000.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	40,000.00
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	35,200.00
5400	RECREATION AND CULTURE	103,645.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	28,000.00
Total		233,845.00
OPIOID ABATEMENT/SETTLEMENT FUND		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	91,064.75
Total		91,064.75
COUNTY CLERK PERMANENT STORAGE FEES - SB135		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	25,009.34
Total		25,009.34
Total Budget Appropriations		9,130,916.97

SECTION TWO. This ordinance shall be published in the Trimble Banner by title and summary within thirty (30) days following adoption.

SECTION THREE. This ordinance becomes effective upon passage and publication.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
All interested persons and organizations are hereby notified that a copy of the Trimble County proposed budget in full is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.



LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice
TRIMBLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTIFICATION OF DESTRUCTION OF STUDENT SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

In accordance with state and federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), this is to inform the public of the Trimble County School District's intent to destroy personally identifiable information related to special education services.

The Trimble County School District would like to notify Parents/Guardians, Former Students, and Eligible (Adult) Students that special education records of students who graduated in the 2013 and 2014 school years will be disposed of starting July 10, 2025. The district is required to maintain records for a minimum of three (3) years from the date the child leaves the school district.

Special education records collected by the Trimble County School District relate to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or provision of special education services in the district. Special education services end when the student is no longer eligible for services, graduates or completes their educational program at age 21, or moves out of the district. This notification is solely to provide awareness to students who graduated in May 2013 and May 2014 or who exited the school system during those years. If no student, parent, or guardian responds to this public notice, the school district will assume consent to destroy all special education records specific to those students after July 10, 2025.

The district may maintain a permanent record, without limitation, of a student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed.

Please be advised that these records may be needed by the student or parent(s) for Social Security benefits or other purposes.

Requests for student records must be submitted to:
Alicia Jackson
Trimble County Board of Education
Phone: (502) 255-3201