

# Crypto investor from Paducah charged in NYC kidnapping case

BY PAXTON MEDIA

A cryptocurrency investor accused of kidnapping and torture in New York City formerly served on the board of a nonprofit organization in Paducah, the group's executive director confirmed Monday.

Cryptocurrency investor John Woeltz was arrested on Friday amid allegations that he kidnapped and tortured a man to try to force him to reveal his Bitcoin password. Citing sources in law enforcement with direct knowledge of the

investigation, NBC News reported that the victim is an Italian tourist, and Woeltz allegedly took the man's passport, tied him up, assaulted and photographed him.

The man escaped the Manhattan apartment where he was being held on Friday, the Associated Press reported, and prosecutors said the victim was able to flag down a traffic officer on the street to get help. Woeltz was arraigned on Saturday and faces two counts of second-degree assault, first-degree kidnapping, first-degree unlawful

imprisonment and criminal possession of a firearm.

Woeltz is a former board member at Sprocket, a nonprofit economic development organization and entrepreneurship hub based in Paducah, Sprocket Executive Director Monica Bilak confirmed in a statement Monday.

"We were recently made aware of tragic and disheartening allegations involving John Woeltz, a former member of our board. While John has not been affiliated with our organization for some time,

this is a difficult and confusing time for those who knew him. Like many in our community, we are shocked and saddened by these events. These allegations are deeply troubling and feel profoundly out of character from the person we came to know. Our thoughts are with everyone affected," the statement read.

A story published by The Paducah Sun on Dec. 6, 2020, describes Woeltz as a Paducah native and a Silicon Valley investor who planned to invest in startups in west Kentucky after committing \$10,000 to one

of Sprocket's initiatives. Woeltz is quoted in the article saying he grew up in Paducah, and that he was excited by the prospect of bringing more tech-based businesses to the city.

As of the time of publication Tuesday, Woeltz remained in detention without bail. The Associated Press reported that he was ordered Saturday to surrender his passport, as prosecutors said he had the means to flee — including a helicopter and a private jet.

## REAL

FROM **PAGE A4**

Elk Lake Shores Subdivision

\*Erin B. Abbot Co. Trustee to Mark A. Brinkman, deed, lot 672 Elk Lake Shores Subdivision

\*Mark A. Brinkman to Mark A. Brinkman Co., Trustee, deed, lots 672, 673, 674 Elk Lake Shores Subdivision

\*Troy Robert Keith to Countryside Properties, LLC, deed, 2 tracts of land on north side of KY Rt. 607

\*Troy Robert Keith to Countryside Properties, LLC, deed, 109.1147 acres on north side of KY Rt. 607

\*Ronald S. Glenn Co. Trustee to Gilbert C. Schmidt, deed, 8,702 acres, tract 2, Howard Rose Estate Farm Division



**LEGAL NOTICE**

**POSTED NO TRESPASSING**  
ALL PROPERTY BELONGING TO BETTY & CHAD RICHARSON ON MANLEY LANE, SPARTA (OWENTON)

\*Jennifer Urie to Zachary Hall, deed, 370 KY Hwy. 36, Sanders, 3 acres and a house

\*Daniel Thomas Conway to South Owen, LLC, deed, 15720 Hwy. 127 South, 2.51 acres

\*Helen Lucille and Thomas Lee Kincaid Irrevocable Trust to Thomas Kincaid Estate, deed, 50 acres on US Hwy. 127 in Monterey precinct.

\*Susan Rambo to Donnie Jennings, deed, tract of land on southwest side of Burke Lane

\*Lucille A. Smith Estate to Mason Roberts, deed, house and lot at 100 Rose Court

\*Wendell Morgan to James Myers, deed, tract of land on west side of Cull Peper Pike

\*Steven W. Aulbach to

Steven W. Aulbach, deed, tract 1, 7.52 acres, Lucinda Farm on south side of Squiresville Rd.

\*Steven W. Aulbach to Steven W. Aulbach, deed, tract 3, 12.21 acres, Lucinda Farm, south side of Squiresville Rd.

\*Steven W. Aulbach to Steven W. Aulbach, deed, tract 2, 2.71 acres, Lucinda Farm, south side of Squiresville Rd.

\*Glenn A. Minch to Daryl G. Steger, land, First Amendment and Assignment of land contract

\*Glenn A. Minch to Daryl G. Steger, deed, lot 28 Owen County Sportsman's Club Subdivision on Davis Lake, No. 1

\*Glenn A. Minch to Daryl G. Steger, deed, lots 29 and 30, Owen County Sportsman's Club Subdivision on Davis Lake, No. 1

\*Marna L. Surber Estate to Joseph Ferrell Adams, deed, 2 tracts of land on Greenup Fork and Severn Creek

\*Frank P. Hopp to Edwin M. Schafer, deed, lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, 16, block 3, unit 11, Timberwood Lakeshores

\*Shelva B. Kilgore to Matthew Valdez, deed, house and lot at 206 E. Adair St.

\*Deanna Tracy to Samantha Martin, deed, lot #2 on Panther Lick Pike, 201 Dutch mobile home

\*Oakley Walker, Jr. to Hollie McClain, deed, 1.3451

acres on south side of Natlee-Slatin Rd.

\*Marc Cetrulo to Marc Cetrulo Co. Trustee, deed, lots 770 and 771, Elk Lake Subdivision

\*Gary E. Lee to Gary E. Lee Trustee, deed, land on north side of Harmony Rd.

\*Mary Kay Duncan to Lindsey Duncan, deed, 3495

Breck Rd, 10 acres

\*Paul Hudnall to Patrick Dearing, deed, 335 Green Acres Rd.


\*Michael Roland to Brenda Hartman, deed, .578 acres on KY 36

\*Douglas W. Burbaugh to Backyard Critters Farm, LLC, deed, 285 Jonesville Rd., 30.918 -25

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The second reading and adoption of the Owen County proposed budget for fiscal year 2025/2026 is scheduled to be held at Owen County Fiscal Court, 100 N. Thomas Street, Owenton, Kentucky 40359 on June 10th, 2025, at 5:00 pm. The full text budget is on file in the office of the Owen County Judge Executive, Owen County Courthouse, 100 N. Thomas Street, Owenton, Kentucky 40359. And is available for public inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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