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# Off the hook, but not for long

## Two men arrested after cutting phone lines to local community

*From the Bell County, KY Sheriff's Department*

Early Friday morning, August 8, 2025, Bell County Sheriff's Deputy Christopher Owens was on patrol on Highway 987 in the Brownies Creek community when he observed a suspicious vehicle leaving an abandoned house.

Deputy Owens noticed that the vehicle registration plate had a plastic shopping bag covering it so as to keep it hidden, which caused the deputy to initiate a traffic stop.

Upon contact with the driver, 53-year-old Tommy Lewis of Pineville, Deputy Owens noticed his passenger, 51-year-old Timothy Richardson, also of Pineville, was sweating and out of breath. Richardson also had a flashlight on top of his head. Upon checking the back seat for other occupants, Deputy Owens saw cut phone wire in plan view. Due to this, both men were detained, and a search of the vehicle was conducted.

The search revealed rolls of cut phone line, numerous tools, straps, homemade grab-bing hooks, and a hand come-along winch. Lewis and



Richardson were then placed under arrest.

Tommy Lewis was charged with criminal mischief in the 1st degree - tampering with or in possession of infrastructure, a class D felony, possession of burglary tools, a misdemeanor, and license plate im-

properly displayed. Timothy Richardson was charged with criminal mischief in the 1st degree - tampering with or in possession of infrastructure, and possession of burglary tools.

Deputy Christopher Owens is in charge of the investigation.

## A new place to eat in Pineville

*From the Big One 106.3*

A piece of Pineville Kentucky history is set to be torn down soon. The former Druthers and Dairy Queen will be demolished making way for a Taco Bell, most likely before the end of 2025.

Bids are currently being taken for tearing down the building.

While some in bigger cities may say it's not that exciting, a new place to eat in a small town makes a big difference and will add to the tax base.

If we understand correctly, the franchise is out of Tennessee.

And yes, we already anticipate the comments will be overwhelmed with: "I wish they would bring in a....," but this is about a new Taco Bell.

“

As construction continues and progress is made, we want to be clear with the community that **the first day of school remains to be August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

—Brian Crawford, Superintendent

”

# BELL COUNTY SCHOOLS START BACK ON MONDAY, AUGUST 25

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