

Attorneys need more time in sex crimes case

BY **AARON SNYDER**
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

GRAYSON Both the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office and defense need a few weeks to review what is expected to be “substantial” discovery in a case that has been active for more than a year.

Michael Lyons, 34, appeared

in Carter County Circuit Court Monday morning alongside attorney Robert Miller. Lyons is accused of distributing obscene material to and procuring or promoting use of a minor.

Authorities have concluded their examination of devices, which Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Barry Bradley confirmed Monday in front

of Judge Rebecca Phillips.

About a year ago during a bond hearing, Bradley argued Lyons is a “grown man who picked up a kid at VBS (Vacation Bible School).”

Lyons is in the Carter County Detention Center on charges that occurred while he was out on bond from a Greenup County case. In Greenup

County, Lyons faces 33 counts of first-degree criminal abuse (of a child 12 and under), stemming from allegations from a special needs classroom at McKell Elementary.

Court records show Lyons began communicating via Snapchat with a 13-year-old he encountered at a VBS at a Carter County church in June 2025.

Based on the June 2025 charges (while out on bond), Greenup County Circuit Court Judge Brian McCloud ruled Lyons be jailed on no bond. He’s been an inmate on no bond since.

Lyons is due back in court on Monday, Nov. 2.

(606) 326-2664 |
asnyder@dailyindependent.com

CONGRESSIONAL VOTES, WEEK OF SEPT. 25 TO OCT. 1

BY TARGETED NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON Here’s a look at how area members of Congress voted over the previous week.

Along with its roll call votes, this week the Senate also passed: the Common Cents Act (H.R. 10167), to direct the Treasury Department to stop minting the penny, change the authorized composition of the nickel, and authorize cash transactions to be rounded up or down to the nearest 5 cents; the Falun Gong and Victims of Forced Organ Harvesting Protection Act (S. 4009), to provide for imposing sanctions with respect to forced organ harvesting within China; the Making America’s Food Safer Act (S. 4974), to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to food safety; the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (S. 4395); the Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment Act (H.R. 7730), to modify certain bankruptcy eligibility requirements.

There were no key votes in the House this week.

SENATE VOTES

Senate Vote 1:

STATE RULES FOR COLLEGE SPORTS: The Senate has approved an amendment sponsored by Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., to the Protect College Sports Act (S. 4668), that would bar states from adopting measures that conflict with the bill. Baldwin said that without the amendment, “the NCAA and athletic conferences could argue that state health and safety protection for athletes conflict with and prevent compliance with this bill.” The vote, on Sept. 28, was 96 yeas to 1 nay.

YEAS: Paul R-KY, McConnell R-KY

Senate Vote 2:

SPORTS ADMISSION

PRICES: The Senate has rejected an amendment sponsored by Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., to the Protect College Sports Act (S. 4668), that would have capped year-on-year ticket price increases for a college sports event at four percent. Kennedy said: “Let us do something for the fans. Let us do something for affordability for a change.” An opponent, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said a ticket price cap “will harm schools from being able to respond when market factors change.” The vote, on Sept. 28, was 42 yeas to 54 nays.

NAYS: Paul R-KY, McConnell R-KY

Senate Vote 3:

HEALTH INSURANCE IN COLLEGE SPORTS: The Senate has rejected an amendment sponsored by Sen. Cory A. Booker, D-N.J., to the Protect College Sports Act (S. 4668), that would have raised caps on funding for health insurance and catastrophic injury treatments for college athletes. Booker said it “will provide greater resources to address athletes’ long-term injuries without placing additional financial burdens on schools.” An amendment opponent, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said the funding “comes at the expense of revenue-share payments. It comes at the expense of scholarships and benefits for student-athletes.” The vote, on Sept. 28, was 49 yeas to 50 nays.

NAYS: Paul R-KY, McConnell R-KY

Senate Vote 4:

PAY FOR COLLEGE SPORTS COACHES: The Senate has rejected an amendment sponsored by Sen. Cory A. Booker, D-N.J., to the Protect College Sports Act (S. 4668), that would have restricted the ability for coaches to change schools and restricted pay for coaches. Booker said limits the bill applied to student athletes

should also apply to coaches.

An opponent, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said the amendment “would put unworkable and burdensome requirements on the coaches and hurt the competitiveness of college sports.” The vote, on Sept. 28, was 47 yeas to 52 nays.

NAYS: Paul R-KY, McConnell R-KY

Senate Vote 5:

REGULATING COLLEGE SPORTS: The Senate has passed the Protect College Sports Act (S. 4668), sponsored by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, to establish various measures regulating college sports, especially limits concerning name, image, or likeness (NIL) contracts. Cruz said the bill was “about protecting the underdog and ensuring that each and every team has the opportunity to develop and compete and maybe even make it to the Final Four next season.” An opponent, Sen. Christopher Murphy, D-Conn., said the bill was essentially “taking a system that the Supreme Court said could not persist under our law, and we are changing the law to allow that illegal system to persist.” The vote, on Sept. 28, was 77 yeas to 22 nays.

NAYS: Paul R-KY

YEAS: McConnell R-KY

Senate Vote 6:

HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGES: The Senate has rejected a motion to proceed to a bill (S.J. Res. 197), sponsored by Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis. The measure would have cancelled a Department of Health and Human Services rule issued this May allowing a wider range of health insurance plans to be sold on individual insurance exchanges. Baldwin claimed that keeping the rule would result in “more Americans buying worse care that does not cover necessary services, from routine checkups to life-threatening emergencies.”

The vote to proceed, on Sept. 29, was 48 yeas to 51 nays.

NAYS: Paul R-KY, McConnell R-KY

Senate Vote 7:

ISRAEL AND HUMAN RIGHTS: The Senate has rejection a motion to discharge from its Foreign Relations Committee a bill (S. Res. 852), sponsored by Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., to request information from the State Department on Israel’s human rights practices, especially the alleged killing of nine U.S. citizens by Israelis in the past five years. Van Hollen said the report would work toward receiving accountability from Israel for the deaths, and thereby discourage future human rights abuses against both Americans and Palestinians. An opponent, Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., called the bill “another cynical ploy by Democrats to isolate our closest ally in the region and to turn Israel’s righteous war of self-defense into a domestic political issue.” The vote to discharge, on Sept. 29, was 47 yeas to 51 nays.

YEAS: Paul R-KY

NAYS: McConnell R-KY

Senate Vote 8:

INSIDER TRADING AND CONGRESS: The Senate has rejected cloture on a motion to proceed to the Stop Insider Trading Act (H.R. 7008), sponsored by Rep. Bryan Steil, R-Wis., to bar members of Congress and their spouses and dependent children from buying publicly traded stocks, and require prior public notification for their planned sales of stocks. Another bill provision would require voters in federal government elections to provide photo identification of themselves at ballot sites. A supporter, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said the stocks provision would hold members of Congress to a good ethical standard, and

the photo id provision would prevent illegal voting. An opponent, Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., said: “This bill creates superficial changes to ethics standards while undermining the right to vote.” The vote, on Sept. 30, was 53 yeas to 47 nays, with a three-fifths majority required.

YEAS: Paul R-KY, McConnell R-KY

Senate Vote 9:

ELECTRICITY COSTS: The Senate has rejected cloture on a motion to proceed to the Ratepayer Protection Act (H.R. 9340), sponsored by Rep. Gabe Evans, R-Colo., to require state regulators to consider implementation of a federal standard for assigning electrical generation and grid costs to large-load customers. A bill supporter, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said it was “designed to protect hard-working Americans from the increased energy costs associated with data centers.” An opponent, Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., said: “This is nothing more than a messaging bill on the eve of an election. Rather than voluntary pledges or vague suggestions to states, Congress needs to pass a law with real teeth.” The vote, on Sept. 30, was 57 yeas to 43 nays, with a three-fifths majority required.

YEAS: Paul R-KY, McConnell R-KY

Senate Vote 10:

LABOR SECRETARY: The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Keith Sonderling to be Labor Secretary. Sonderling has been the agency’s deputy secretary for a year and a half, following time in two labor-related posts in the first Trump administration, and a labor lawyer career in Florida. The vote, on Sept. 30, was 47 yeas to 41 nays.

YEAS: Paul R-KY

NOT VOTING: McConnell R-KY

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