Both sides agree to necropsy issue in animal cruelty case

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG The defense and prosecution involved in a second-degree animal cruelty case entered into an agreed order following the defense's emergency motion filing.

Sebastian Joy, who represents the owner of Ohana Run Farm in Boyd County, asked for immediate necropsy to be performed on any deceased horses previously under Marlo Matheny's care.

During a Monday afternoon district court hearing, which drew a relatively large turnout, Judge Scott Reese heard the motion from the defense. The prosecution — county attorney Curtis Dotson and assistant county attorney Nikki Burke — agreed under certain conditions.

Matheny, 35, was charged in October with two misdemeanor counts of second-degree animal cruelty — the highest charge available under Kentucky law — after images and video of emaciated horses and unsettling stable conditions from Ohana Run Farm prompted an investigation from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Boyd County Sheriff's Department.

According to the KDA, Matheny surrendered horses from the farm. According to Matheny, they were taken from her.

Based on previous reports, the horses were temporarily held and cared for at the Boyd County Fairgrounds.

Joy indicated the horses are now in several areas in the Tri-State and one is in Florida.

The agreed order entails the defense would be notified if/when any of those horses are determined to require euthanasia. Joy said, in those cases, Matheny will arrange transportation for the horses to The Ohio State University for a necropsy. She would also be paying for the necropsy.

Once a necropsy is performed, a copy of the report would go to both the prosecution and defense.

Dotson emphasized in open court that a KDA representative is permitted to be an accompanying party to any necropsy.

Matheny previously told *The Daily Independent* numerous horses died in a short time span for an unknown reason prior to the relocation of the animals. She indicated she suspected an environmental issue or illness not caused by anything she did.

Judge Reese scheduled a pretrial conference for Monday, Nov. 30, at 1 p.m.

(606) 326-2664 |
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Trafficking, fleeing suspect gets 8 years

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG An Ashland man pleaded guilty Friday to fentanyl trafficking and fleeing/evading police.

Roger Barker, 37, admitted to committing both crimes, for which he was sentenced to eight years in front of Boyd County Circuit Court Judge George Davis. Barker appeared via videoconference from the Boyd County Detention Center.

Barker was initially arrested on the charges in August 2025.

Two other charges were dismissed.

He was sentenced to eight years on each charge. They will run concurrently for a total of eight years.

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LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

UK running back in Russell Sunday

RUSSELL

The day after Kentucky hosts Florida in a rivalry football game at Kroger Field in Lexington, Wildcats running back C.J. Baxter will be at the Russell Senior Center on Bellefonte Street.

Baxter will meet and greet with fans, and sign autographs, from 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15.

The event is presented by Ison's Cards & Collectibles.

Ison's announced pricing as follows: $25 per autograph, $25 for a selfie (with your own camera) and $35 for a combo (autograph and selfie).

Ison's said it will have mini helmets, photos, jerseys and cards available for purchase.

Highlands 'Holiday Hall' Sunday

ASHLAND

The Highlands DO!zeum will have a "Holiday Hall" Sunday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The fourth floor will will be full of holiday spirit as shoppers will have a chance to get holiday shopping done thanks to an assortment of local vendors and boutiques.

According to the Highlands, a large variety of items will be featured.

Entry is free with lunch options available for $15.

Access to the event will be available through the 17th Street City of Ashland parking garage via the sixth-floor pedway.

Call (606) 329-8888 for more information.

LIHEAP fall subsidy begins

LEXINGTON

Community Action Council announced all 23 Community Action Agencies across Kentucky are now accepting applications on a first-come, first-served basis for the LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) fall subsidy.

Applications are now open and will be accepted through Dec. 18, or until funding is depleted.

Interested households should contact the Community Action Agency serving their county to determine eligibility and apply.

To qualify, households must meet program eligibility requirements, including having a household income at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines.

All applicants will be required to provide proof of social security number for each member of the household, proof of all income from the prior month, the most current heating bill (or statement from landlord if heating expenses are including in rent) or statement from the utility company if participating in a pre-pay electric program.

Visit compaction.org/LIHEAPKY or call 1-800-244-2275 for more information.

MEETING

- Today (Nov. 10), 6 p.m.: Boyd County Board of Education, regular session, Lions Lane. Dialogue Site Based Decision Meeting for Elementary directly follows.



Pet of the Week

SUBMITTED PHOTO

***The Daily Independent's* Pet of the Week is Nala. According to her owner, "she's the best cat ever." She loves everyone and enjoys food. Nala is one of hundreds of submissions into the newspaper's contest on Facebook.**

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SALE for BLUEGRASS FLEET MAINTENANCE, INC. dba AFFORDABLE TOWING Date of Sale November 13th, 2026 at 9:00am Auction will be held at Bluegrass Fleet Maintenance, 101 Armco Blvd. Ashland, Ky. 41101 2015 KIA RIO VIN: KNADM4A39F6514423

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