McKell abuse trial pushed to March

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

GREENUP A trial involving three co-defendants accused of criminal child abuse is now set for March 2027.

A representative of the office of attorney Sean Pharr, who represents Makenzie Rice, was in Greenup County Circuit Court Thursday morning.

Previously, the trial for Rice, Michael Lyons and Ashley Trissler was scheduled for February, but Pharr was not present when that date was determined. According to 20th Judicial Circuit Commonwealth's Attorney Rhese McKenzie, the Commonwealth was under the impression everyone involved OK'ed the date, but that ultimately was not the case. Judge Brian McCloud allowed the trial to be rescheduled for March 8.

Rice, Lyons and Trissler — each represented by different lawyers — face multiple counts of first-degree criminal abuse stemming from allegations of abuse occurring in a special education classroom involving non-verbal students.

Rice, the main instructor in the classroom, faces 40 counts, while Lyons is looking at 33 and Trissler five.

Former co-defendant Faith Jordan pleaded guilty to lesser charge — first-degree wanton endangerment — earlier this month. Jordan has not yet been sentenced. Her sentencing will take place following the trial.

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Ashland man sentenced for possessing CSAM

BY MARY JANE EPLING
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG An Ashland man was sentenced to prison time on Friday for charges stemming from a sexual crime involving a minor.

Travis Porter, 43, was indicted in August 2025 on a sole count of procuring or promoting the use of a minor by electronic means, but by Friday, that charge was amended to possessing child sexual abuse materials.

In accordance with a plea agreement reached with the Commonwealth and with approval from the investigating officers, Boyd County Circuit Judge George Davis sentenced Porter to one year in state prison with a requirement to later register as a sex offender.

Porter declined to give any statement during the sentencing.

Local riverport part of $15M investment

STAFF REPORT

FRANKFORT Gov. Andy Beshear announced a $15.1 million investment to enhance freight capacity and support economic activity through Kentucky's waterways Thursday, according to a news release.

Awards from the Kentucky Public Riverport Construction and Maintenance (KPRCM) program will fund 15 projects which include equipment upgrades and replacement, warehouse and storage expansion, increased capacity for barge staging, safety improvements, and more, the release stated.

One of the projects pertains to the Greenup Boyd County Riverport Authority, which will receive nearly $1.7 million to build a 10,000-square-foot warehouse and freight staging facility.

"Our riverports play a key role in transporting goods across the commonwealth," Beshear said. "These investments will help boost capacity and support good-paying jobs for our people for years to come."

This marks the fifth time KPRCM funding has been issued, with its last round announced in January 2026. Each grant project is reviewed and recommended by the state's Water Transportation Advisory Board based on safety, preservation, transportation and economic development impact and other factors, according to the release.

Other public riverports to receive funds are as follows: Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority ($2.7 million), Henderson County ($2.6 million), Hickman Fulton County ($2.7 million), Owensboro ($1.2 million), Paducah McCracken County ($2.25 million) and West Kentucky Regional ($2 million).

Child abuse, sodomy among Greenup Co. indictments

STAFF REPORT

GREENUP A 70-year-old man was indicted by a Greenup County grand jury last week on several charges related to the sexual and physical abuse of children.

Larry Stone, of South Shore, was indicted on charges of second-degree criminal abuse of a child 12 years of age or younger, first-degree sexual abuse of a child aged 16 or younger and two counts of first-degree sodomy of a child 12 years or younger.

According to the indictment, Stone is accused of engaging in masturbation in the presence of a child under the age of 16 resulting in the sexual abuse charge and subjected a child 12 years or younger to situations that may have caused physical injury or cruel punishment under the criminal child abuse charge.

Both counts of first-degree sodomy of a child under 12 are class A felonies, carrying a maximum punishment of up to 20 years to life in prison, if convicted.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt, rather a grand jury deemed initial evidence was sufficient enough for the Commonwealth to proceed with prosecution.

The grand jury also issued the following indictments last week:

• Steven M. Tackett, 54, of Worthington, was indicted on a sole count of second-degree escape for escaping from a detention felony or from custody.

• Jonathan A. Tallini, 29, of Flatwoods, was indicted on charges of first-degree sodomy and first-degree rape for engaging in sexual intercourse with another person by forcible compulsion.

LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Aeropostale returns to Town Center

ASHLAND

Aeropostale has returned to the Ashland Town Center. It celebrated its grand opening with a Northeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday morning.

Aeropostale is located across from Victoria's Secret in the mall.

HMA to offer tasting tour

HUNTINGTON

The Huntington Museum of Art will offer a tasting tour of the C. Fred Edwards Conservatory on Tuesday, Nov. 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. as part of its 4th Tuesday Tour Series. Admission to this event is free.

This program is taking place as part of the 30th anniversary of the C. Fred Edwards Conservatory at HMA.

During the tour, guests will be able to sample foods that are produced by plants that are represented in the C. Fred Edwards Conservatory. Tasting tour stations for this event will include cacao, coconut, mango and pomegranate.

"It's been a great year as we have celebrated the 30th anniversary of the C. Fred Edwards Conservatory in a number of ways," said HMA Conservatory Director Josh Hamrick. "Now, as the year draws to a close, we will celebrate the conservatory one more time with the popular conservatory tasting tour."

HMA offers free general admission on Tuesdays. Hours on Tuesday are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information on HMA events, exhibits or museum membership, visit hmoa.org or call (304) 529-2701. HMA is fully accessible.

Peddlers Mall opening in Wheelersburg

WHEELERSBURG

Peddlers Mall, a family-owned and operated chain of indoor flea markets and antique malls, announced the grand opening of its newest location in Wheelersburg. It will be Sunday, Dec. 6, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The new store will offer shoppers a chance to explore a unique mix of vintage treasures, antiques, collectibles, secondhand merchandise, repurposed goods, and even brand new finds. With a constantly changing selection of merchandise from more than 300 independent vendors, every visit offers something new to discover.

Peddlers Mall provides its vendors an opportunity to operate their own retail spaces while offering shoppers an alternative to traditional retail. The concept encourages reuse, recycling, and sustainable shopping by giving pre-loved merchandise a second life.

The grand opening celebration will feature multiple food trucks, indoor games and door prizes. Shoppers are invited to come out, explore the new store, meet the team, and be among the first to explore this exciting new destination.

Peddlers Mall is a family-owned business with more than 20 locations across Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Extension Service closed Nov. 26-27

CATLETTSBURG

The Boyd County Cooperative Extension Service will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

It will reopen on Monday, Nov. 30, at 8 a.m.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID

Pathways Inc. will be accepting sealed bids for the following vehicle types. Two (2) 2026 or current-year model ranging from 12-16 Seat Passenger Vans. One (1) 12-16 Seat Passenger Van with hydraulic rear entry wheelchair lift (retaining 10 seats in rear). One (1) Mini Van with a rear load wheelchair ramp. Parties interested in submitting a bid should email jarmstead@pathways-ky.org requesting a bid package. An intention to bid must be emailed to the above address no later than November 24, 2026. Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00 PM EST on **Wednesday, December 16, 2026.**

Published: November 12, 14, 17, 19, 21 & 24, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Monthly Board Meeting
November 16, 2026 05:30 PM ET (4:30 CT)
Central Office
Alternate Location: GCHS

1. Roll Call
2. Oath of Office of Newly Elected Board Members
3. Point of Order
   3.1. Heart of a Musketeer — Derek Howard
4. District Update
5. Delegations
6. Policy and Procedure Review - 2nd Reading
7. Acknowledgement of Personnel Action
8. Approval of Consent Items
   - 8.1. Minutes from Oct 26 2026
   - 8.2. Fund Raising Requests & Building Use Requests
   - 8.3. Acknowledgement of Principal Approved Field Trip Requests
   - 8.4. Claims and Payroll as directed from the Treasurer
   - 8.5. Financial Reports
   - 8.6. Superintendent Monthly Expenses
   - 8.7. Food Service Report
   - 8.8. Attendance Report
   - 8.9. Maintenance Report
   - 8.10. Technology Report
   - 8.11. Student Services Reports
   - 8.12. Budget Committee Min.
   - 8.13. Booster Reports
   - 8.14. Classroom Supervision Data Jason Smith
9. Non-Consent Agenda
   - 9.1. Ashland Credit Union - Spirit Program Derek Howard/Matt Thompson
   - 9.2. Revised Dataseam Contract — Phillip Coffee
   - 9.3. Speech Language Pathology Assistant Contract Lesley Isom
   - 9.4. MOA with UK St. Claire
10. Adjournment

Published: November 14, 2026