

# Looking back to July 2, 2018

Written by Jonathan Wright

The following information was entered into the July, 2018 edition of The Ledger Independent:

## McCartney portrait dedicated

**FLEMINGSBURG** — The dedication of a judicial portrait of the late Judge Frank Howard McCartney was held at Fleming County District Courtroom Friday afternoon.

Friends, fellow jurists,

colleagues and the general public were invited to attend. District Judge Jeffrey Schumacher presided over the dedication ceremony.

McCartney died at his home on Jan. 7, 2017. The mantle of district judge was then passed on to Jeffrey L. Schumacher on May 5 of that year, a position he currently holds.

A dedication of portraits for previous district judges who have retired or died is a sort

of tradition that Schumacher aims to uphold.

“When I first started practicing with (the late) John McNeill in 1992, we would come to Flemingsburg and go to the old courthouse, and my favorite thing about the old courthouse was the paintings that lined the walls,” Schumacher said during the introduction to the ceremony.

After the introduction, remarks were made by Marvin Suit, partner at law with Frank McCart-

ney, 19th Judicial Circuit Judge Stockton B. Wood, retired District Judge Todd Walton, who was the predecessor to McCartney, Fleming County Attorney John Price and Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Michelle Keller.

“Judge McCartney was a fabulous man in many different ways, and I’m sure we’ll hear various people speak on that,” Walton said, before the ceremony. “Judge Schumacher has been

very instrumental in leading initially for these portraits to be created and hung in the various courthouses, and that is a very noble undertaking and one I think we all who serve in the court system appreciate greatly.”

“I respected (McCartney) as a jurist,” Maysville Police Chief Ron Rice said, before the ceremony. “My wife had the opportunity to meet and work somewhat with his wife, Marsha, so I

kind of knew him along those lines.”

Once remarks were made, the portrait of McCartney was finally unveiled. The portrait was painted by local artist Steve White. Two copies of the portrait will also be displayed in Mason County and Bracken County judicial centers with Fleming County housing the original.

Closing remarks were made by McCartney’s widow, Marsha.

## Former Murray police officer indicted on multiple counts

Tom Latek

Kentucky Today

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT)** – A former Murray Police Department detective sergeant, arrested on six charges due to an alleged sexual relationship with an underage girl, has been indicted on many more counts, said Attorney General Russell Coleman.

A Calloway County Grand Jury indicted Justin Swope, 44, on one count of Unlawful Transaction with a Minor, First Degree, Illegal Sexual Act, Victim Under 16 (a Class B Felony with a sentence of 10-20 years, if convicted), one count of Unlawful Transaction with a Minor, First Degree, Illegal Sexual Act, Victim Under 18

(a Class C Felony punishable by 5-10 years in prison), ten counts of Promoting a Sexual Performance By A Minor, Victim Under 18 (Class C Felony), four counts of Sodomy, Third Degree (a Class D Felony with a potential 1-5 years behind bars), ten counts of Rape, Third Degree (Class D Felony), and two counts of Sexual Abuse, First

Degree (Class D).

According to the indictment, the abuse began in 2018 when the victim was just 15 and continued through 2021. During that time, Swope sent the girl inappropriate pictures of himself and forced her to do the same. Later, he forced her to take part in sexual acts and sexual intercourse, sometimes in a parked car. Swope

was employed with the Murray Police Department during this time.

The Kentucky State Police (KSP) said on May 19, 2026, the Mayfield Post was contacted by the Murray Police Department (MPD) requesting KSP to investigate allegations of sexual abuse against one of their officers that had been brought to their attention that same day.

An investigation led to the original charges against Swope, which the KSP said occurred in Calloway County as well as Trigg County.

Swope resigned from the Murray Police Department following his arrest.

Assistant Attorney General Richie Kemp presented the case to the grand jury on behalf of the commonwealth.

## CBP seizes fake watches in Louisville

Tom Latek

Kentucky Today

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT)** – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Port of Louisville intercepted a shipment June 18 containing 375 counterfeit watches, which would have had a total Manufacturer’s Suggested Retail Price of over \$54 million, if real.

The shipment from Hong Kong was headed for a residence in New York when officers pulled

the parcel for inspection. The examination revealed 375 Audemars Piguet watches. The items were deemed to be inauthentic by CBP’s Centers of Excellence and Expertise, the agency’s trade experts, and were seized for bearing counterfeit versions of registered and recorded trademarks.

“Intellectual property theft threatens America’s economic vitality and funds criminal activities and organized crime,”

said Louisville’s Port Director, Philip Onken. “Our officers protect private industry and consumers by removing these kinds of shipments from our commerce.”

Illegitimate sales are some of the most profitable transnational crimes. Counterfeiters sell inauthentic versions of popular products in response to trends, often through online sources, which adversely impacts legitimate U.S. businesses.

These items, including fake medications, perfumes, and cosmetics, children’s toys and costumes, fashion, jewelry, and luxury products, and unsafe electronics and automotive parts, can pose serious health and safety risks to American consumers as they are often made with substandard or harmful materials.

CBP reminds consumers to shop from reputable online sources.

E-Commerce sales have contributed to large volumes of low-value, small packages being imported into the U.S. Over 90% of all counterfeit seizures occur in the international mail and express environments, which are channels through which small, e-commerce packages destined for the U.S. travel. Many of these shipments contain counterfeit goods that pose the same health, safety, and economic security

risks as large, containerized shipments.

CBP protects the intellectual property rights of American businesses through an aggressive Intellectual Property Rights enforcement program, safeguarding them from unfair competition and use for malicious intent while upholding American innovation and ingenuity. Suspected violations can be reported to CBP by visiting the Trade Violations Reporting site.

## Some tips on controlling energy usage during heat wave

Tom Latek

Kentucky Today

**ASHLAND, Ky. (KT)** – The first week of July is bringing a heat wave that has air conditioning units humming and fans turning as electric utility customers in Kentucky try to beat the heat.

“As temperatures climb, air conditioners have to work harder and use more energy to keep homes cool,” said Ryan

Lake, external affairs manager for Ashland-based Kentucky Power. “Extreme weather like this heat wave can cause customer bills to spike. However, there are many ways customers can control their energy usage, which can help manage high bills, even in extreme heat.”

There are many low- and no-cost energy efficiency measures custom-

ers can put into place to save money without jeopardizing comfort, including:

Repair air leaks in the home; up to 25 percent of energy used to cool homes escapes via leaks.

Maintain consistent temperatures and monitor your thermostat settings. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends a summer thermostat setting of 75-78 degrees.

Use ceiling fans to circulate cool air throughout the house and to help cool people directly. This allows for a higher thermostat setting.

Close drapes and shades on south-facing windows to block sun and heat during the day.

Move furnishings away from floor or return air vents for more efficient HVAC operation.

Avoid using heat-producing appliances such

as ovens or dryers during the hottest parts of the day.

Remember, the National Weather Service has issued Extreme Heat Warnings for all of Kentucky. They remain in effect through Friday evening for most of the state, and through Thursday evening in Northern Kentucky.

Hot and humid conditions are forecast to push the heat index, which is

a combination of the air temperature and humidity, to between 105 and 115, with limited nighttime cooling during that period.

There is some relief in sight from the heat and humidity, according to the National Weather Service with an increasing chance of showers and thunderstorms, but that won’t take place until early next week.

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## Adults arrested after 16 children found in ‘deplorable’ conditions in southern Ohio home

Jaimie Ding

Associated Press

Authorities arrested four adults on felony child endangerment charges after discovering 16 children in dire need of medical treatment Tuesday in a rural southern Ohio home.

The Ohio Bureau of Investigation and local

sheriff’s department searched a home in the small village of Hamden, where they found the kids in what officials called “deplorable” conditions.

“Conditions you cannot even imagine people being in, let alone children being in,” Ohio Attorney General Andy Wilson said at a news conference.

Law enforcement

arrested Gary Siders Jr., Gary Siders Sr., Christina Siders and Elizabeth Siders. They have not yet been arraigned and assigned public defenders.

Vinton County prosecuting attorney William Archer said they were being charged with second-degree felony child endangering because it involves “serious physical harm.”

Officials did not confirm if the children were related but said it was not a human trafficking situation. They said the adults were not locals and appeared to have been traveling.

Hamden has a population of less than 1,000 people and is about 60 miles (97 kilometers)

southeast of Columbus.

The children ranged from ages 1.5 to 18 and included both boys and girls, officials said. Several were in serious conditions when found, and two had to be flown to level one trauma centers because of their injuries.

Wilson said it was the worst scene he had ever encountered in his entire career, describing what he saw as “pure evil.”

Law enforcement were also executing a secondary search warrant at the home Tuesday, and the investigation is ongoing. The four adults will appear in court Wednesday morning.

“Justice will be served for these children,” Wilson said.



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