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PROFESSOR

loved ones were waiting for a trial to begin after constant snags: COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions in courts and jails, a backlogged forensics lab, judge recusals and potential new evidence.

Instead, just days before the case was set for trial, Jackson took an Alford plea on lesser charges: manslaughter, abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence.

Thomas Lyons, Jackson's attorney, was not immediately available for comment.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ELLA JACKSON?

Ella Jackson, 47, was reported missing by Phillip Hans, her oldest son, in October 2019. Hans told police he spoke with his mother frequently, and when he didn't hear from her, he became worried.

Early in the investigation, Jackson told detectives varying stories about where Ella Jackson might have gone. He originally called police and reported his wife of about six years may have abandoned their son. He also told police she would routinely disappear and return.

Police later found Ella Jackson's phone, wallet, car and then 5-year-old

son at her home on Westwood Drive.

In April 2020, Jackson was charged with murder, tampering with physical evidence and abuse of a corpse after a significant amount of his wife's blood was discovered in the trunk of his vehicle.

Investigators used luminol, a chemical that illuminates when it comes in contact with substances like blood, to find an approximately 2-foot in diameter stain, according to previous detective testimony. A knife, which also reacted to luminol, was also found in the trunk, police said.

A week after Jackson's arrest, Ella's skeletal remains were found in Pulaski County on property neighboring one Jackson owns, along with women's clothing strewn around, according to Richmond police.

A medical examiner ruled Ella's death a homicide but could not determine a cause of death due to the state of her remains. However, the examiner noted a "significant fracture to the skull," prosecutors said.

Jackson was employed by EKU as a lecturer at the time of his wife's disappearance, but fired in



Ella Jackson was murdered in 2019. Her case is slowly moving through the court system. Her husband, Glenn Jackson, is charged with her murder.

February 2020, before his arrest, according to documents obtained by the Herald-Leader.

During the course of the investigation, Richmond police discovered Ella met with a domestic violence advocate a few days before her disappearance and had spoken with a divorce attorney.

Now that Jackson has entered a plea, a wrongful death suit previously filed by Hans against Jackson can proceed.

Hans can also move forward with becoming the legal guardian of Ella's almost-12-year-old son.

Jackson's sentencing is scheduled for March 12.

This is a developing story. It will be updated.

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SHERIFF

interagency database.

Root said KSP told him the London Police Department was the subject of an "ongoing FBI investigation."

The FBI did not respond to a Herald-Leader request for comment. The agency does not usually comment on ongoing criminal investigations. It maintains a satellite field office in London.

Root said he suspects London Police Department lost its access to CJIS due to misuse.

"If you're doing things right, you normally don't

have people requesting a change," he said. "KSP requested the change, so I'm assuming that they saw problems."

KSP, the London Police Department and London Mayor Randall Weddle did not immediately respond to a Herald-Leader request for comment.

CJIS operates databases like the National Crime Information Center with real-time information on stolen property and wanted persons. Next-Generation Identification software and National Instant Criminal Background

Check System for information on firearms.

Most agencies maintain strict internal policies that limit the use of CJIS audits to those under investigation for suspicion of a crime, said Jimmy Phelps, a retired KSP trooper in London.

"You run names through the database, and you can find out if there's already a case open against them," he said. "You can see exactly what their background is."

KSP requires troopers to obtain approval from a supervisor before a name is audited, Phelps said. Law enforcement officers are prohibited from using the system for personal use, he added.

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DEMOCRATS

fied by name badges, many of the agents involved in immigration raids and confronting protesters are operating in anonymity, obscuring their faces and wearing no identification.

The department says the masks are a necessary line of defense for the officers, who could face threats, intimidation, or violence if they were publicly identified. Critics say the masks are intended to prevent agents from being held accountable for their actions and to create a climate of fear on American streets.

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., the House minority leader, said at a news conference Wednesday that agents had been wearing masks "in an arbitrary and capricious fashion," which was "horifying the American people."

Democrats are also seeking a requirement that agents wear body cameras when interacting with the public, and rules for how they are used.

Republicans have shown some interest in compromising on cameras. Kristi Noem, the homeland security secretary, said Monday that immigration officers had recently begun wearing them in Minneapolis and would expand their use throughout the country.

JUDICIAL WARRANTS

The Homeland Security Department claims sweeping powers for immigration officers to search private homes and con-

duct arrests without judicial warrants. Democrats want to bring immigration operations more firmly under judicial review, in line with other law enforcement operations.

Federal immigration officers now use administrative warrants, issued by the executive branch, including when searching private homes for someone who has been issued a final deportation order. Other law enforcement agencies are generally required under the Fourth Amendment to obtain arrest and search warrants from judges.

The Homeland Security Department has argued that immigrants in the country illegally "aren't entitled" to the same constitutional warrant protections that U.S. citizens are. Democratic critics argue the practice erodes constitutional protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

"Adding a whole new layer of judicial warrant requirements is an unworkable proposal," House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said Tuesday.

USE OF FORCE LIMITS AND GREATER LOCAL OVERSIGHT

Democrats also are asking to enact new guardrails for the use of force by immigration agents, similar to those that exist for other law enforcement officers. And they want more local and state government oversight of immigration operations and investigations into accusations of criminal actions by federal agents.

In Minnesota, state officials have sought to investigate shootings by federal immigration agents, including Pretti's killing. An arm of the Homeland Security Department is taking the lead in the inquiry into Pretti's death, court papers showed.

Critics have argued that a federal investigation might not be robust or impartial, given how strongly Noem and other Trump administration officials have backed the agents involved.

Democrats said in their letter this week that state and local jurisdictions must be granted more authority to "investigate and prosecute potential crimes and use of excessive force incidents."

Louisville mayor reports second death from extreme winter weather

BY TAYLOR SIX
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A homeless man in Louisville was found dead inside a tent due to freezing temperatures, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg said in a press conference Wednesday.

The man was the second to die in Louisville as a result of the extreme winter weather.

Richard Marshall, 55, was announced dead Jan. 28 from hypothermia,

Homeless Engagement Assessment Response Team, spoke with the man around 2 p.m. that same day, and were familiar with him, Greenberg said in a press conference Wednesday.

The man was the sec-

ond to die in Louisville as a result of the extreme winter weather.

"This is another reminder to the entire community that if there is anyone in your life, whether you are close to them or are far from them, but know of them, please reach out to provide a helping hand," Greenberg said.

Across the state, 16 other people have died related to the severe weather brought on by Winter Storm Fern over the past weeks, according to Gov. Andy Beshear.

Other deaths related to the weather were reported in Fayette County, where 32-year-old Jordyn Daws died of hypothermia Wednesday outside a Lexington home, as well as in Jefferson, Morgan, Whitley, Pulaski, Daviess, Graves, Owen and Livingston counties.

Vic Watts said.

Dion Watts was charged Jan. 2 with resisting arrest and two counts of third-degree assault of a police or probation officer, according to court records.

OFFICIALS SPEAK OUT ABOUT EMBATTLED DETENTION CENTER

Autopsy results, including Watts' cause of death, were pending as of Feb. 3, according to the Fayette County Coroner's Office.

Noel Caldwell, a lawyer for Watts' family, said Watts' handcuffs were so tight, he suffered a lack of blood circulation that shut down his vital organs.

Watt's death prompted statements from the Madison County NAACP and Richmond Mayor Robert Blythe, both of whom called for internal and independent investigations.

Kentucky Sen. Keturah Herron D-Louisville, issued a statement Tuesday sharing she knew Watts and his family.

"Transparency, independent investigation, and public accountability are necessary to understand what happened to Dion Watts and to prevent future deaths," Herron wrote in a news release. "Dion deserved care and compassion. His family deserves clear answers. Communities across Kentucky deserve systems that protect life and dignity."

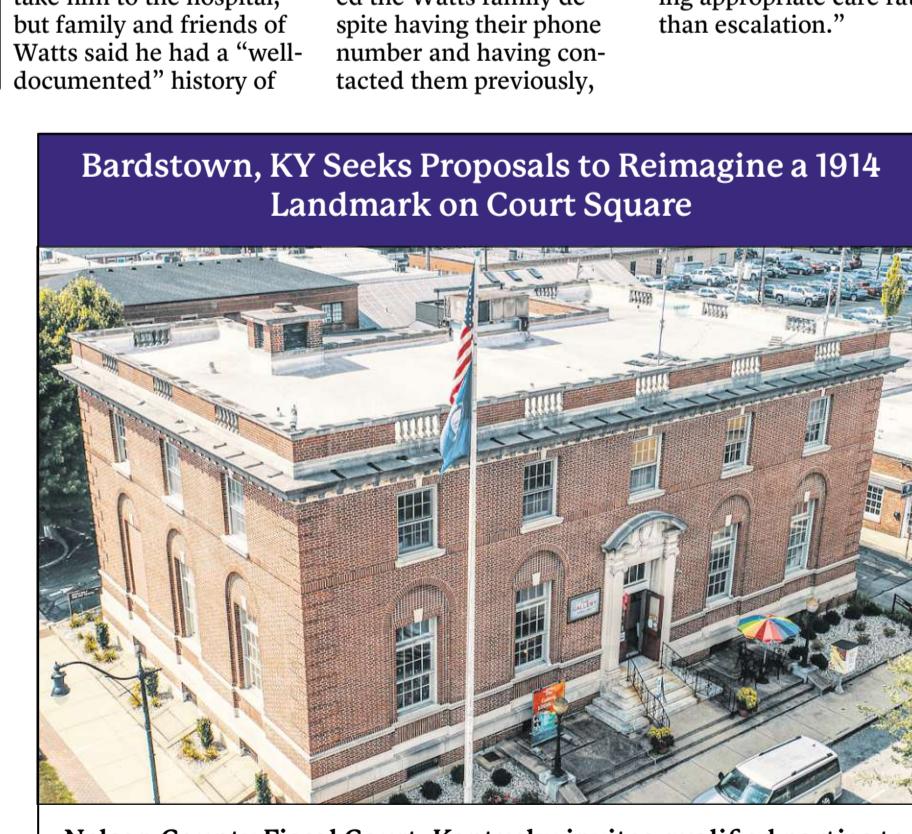
Kentucky State Police are conducting an investigation, and the Madison County Detention Center opened an internal investigation.

Watts' family say they intend to file a lawsuit.

"Madison County ranks second in Kentucky for jail deaths," Herron, said.

"That statistic raises serious concerns about detention practices, the use of force, and whether people in crisis are receiving appropriate care rather than escalation."

Bardstown, KY Seeks Proposals to Reimagine a 1914 Landmark on Court Square



Nelson County Fiscal Court, Kentucky invites qualified parties to submit proposals for the purchase and adaptive redevelopment of the Old Historic Post Office, located in Bardstown's National Historic District and the Bourbon Capital of the World.

Download Details at:

nelsoncountyky.gov/old-historic-post-office-rfp/

