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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 ECU as a lecturer at the time of his wife's disappearance, but fired in



Jason Hans

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.

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.

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, who was not identified publicly, was found on Bank Street Feb. 3, Greenberg said.

Members of Louisville's

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

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

Greenberg said in a post on social media.

"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.

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WATTS

A Richmond police officer wrote in a citation that Watts was asked to leave several times. The officer offered Watts a ride to a friend's house or somewhere else, but Watts said he had nowhere to go and said he "preferred to go to jail."

Madison District Court records indicate he was booked in jail and released at 11:40 p.m. Jan. 1.

He died five days later in a hospital.

The Department of Corrections, which oversees Kentucky jails, did not respond to a request for comment for this story.

BODY CAMERA FOOTAGE

The Lexington Herald-Leader obtained five officers' body camera footage that shows the moments before, during and after Watts altercation inside the entryway to the jail.

The footage, obtained through the Kentucky Open Records Act, shows Deputy Jailer Mark Murphy flipping Watts into the air and taking him to the ground.

A Richmond police officer runs up to the men trying to restrain Watts, who repeatedly screams that officers are "trying to kill me."

Watts' ankle is visibly broken during the scum.

It's unclear if Murphy is still employed by the Madison County jail.

In the footage, deputies can be heard saying that before the altercation, they wanted to take Watts to a hospital, but he refused to take an ambulance. However, he agreed to go to the hospital if jail staff would take him personally.

Jail staff did not indicate why they were going to take him to the hospital, but family and friends of Watts said he had a "well-documented" history of

mental health issues.

It is unclear if the deputies were planning to take him, as he requested, or if private transport is even allowed as part of their protocol.

WHAT THE POLICE CITATION SAYS

In the citation, the Richmond police officer wrote that he was preparing to leave the facility on the night of the altercation when a deputy jailer said he needed to speak with him.

The officer went to his cruiser, and as he opened the door to come back into the jail, he wrote, "Watts began to yell and slammed the door shut."

"Once Murphy and Watts were on the ground, I began to assist Murphy in gaining control of Watts who was physically resisting us both," the officer wrote.

The officer said Watts tried to grab items off his duty vest, and as a result the officer "performed several knee strikes to the back of Watts and heel palm strikes to the face in an attempt to gain control."

Several other officers soon arrived "and assisted in handcuffing and controlling Watts," Haddix wrote.

"Dion Watts was cited and released at the University of Kentucky Hospital due to receiving medical treatment for broken ankle and other medical reasons," the citation states.

Watts' family was not notified he was in the hospital until Jan. 5 — four days after he was released from jail, and a day before he died, said Watts' uncle, Vic Watts.

Jail staff never contacted the Watts family despite having their phone number and having contacted them previously,

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."

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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

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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 "horrifying 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.

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.



543 South Limestone

Intercontinental Kitchen LLC DBA World of Gourmet Restaurant

declares its intention to apply for an NQ2 Retail Drink License

www.WorldofGourmet.com

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:

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