3 people arrested following trafficking-related robbery

BY MESSENGER STAFF

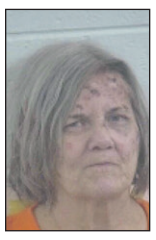
Three people were arrested by Calloway County deputies following what investigators say was a drug trafficking related robbery.

On Oct. 17, Leslie Davis, 64, of Murray, reported that an armed robbery occurred at her home on Cambridge Drive in Murray wherein "an unknown male entered the residence and assaulted her with a loaded handgun while another female was present," according to information obtained from the sheriff's office.

Davis also reported the theft of several items.

Davis had also "sustained serious injuries to her head and face," the office stated.

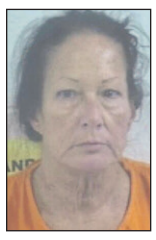
Investigators do not believe the robbery was entirely random because Davis was "found to be in possession of illicit drugs



Leslie Davis



Michael Lane



Marla Salas

under circumstances consistent with trafficking," according to the sheriff's office. She was lodged at the Calloway County Detention Center that same day.

During the ensuing investigation, Michael Lane, of Kevil, was identified as the male subject, and Marla Salas, of Hardin, was determined to be the female suspect, the sheriff's office stated.

On Oct. 20, investigators applied for a search warrant in Marshall County which led to the apprehension of Marla Salas who was lodged at the Marshall County Detention Center. In the evening, investigators and deputies located and arrested Lane in Ballard County after a short manhunt on an active Calloway County warrant.

During a Ballard County search, investigators found "a handgun believed to be connected to the assault which had blood spatter upon it," the office stated.

Davis was charged with first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance-methamphetamine, trafficking marijuana 8 oz. to 5 lbs., tampering with evidence and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Lane and Salas were both charged with first-degree burglary and robbery, according to the office.



KENNA WILLIAMS | For The Messenger

Marketing Manager and Public Information Officer Kat Byars shared that the Barkley Regional Airport aims to establish a coastal flight route.

Beach flights could be on horizon for Barkley Regional Airport

BY KENNA WILLIAMS
FOR THE MESSENGER

Driving to the beach can be a long journey for Kentuckians, but the nearby Barkley Regional Airport is working to eliminate that barrier for the local area.

On Monday, Marketing Manager and Public Information Officer Kat Byars shared that the Barkley airport aims to establish a coastal flight route and is currently looking into creating pitches for airlines. While the exact destination is uncertain, Byars said Barkley has narrowed it down to five or 10 possible locations.

"They're all in the decision-making process," Byars said. "We may [have] a long way to go, but I'm hoping that we could get that Florida flight one day."

In addition to seeking a beach route, the airport currently has two popular flight destinations to Chicago and Houston through SkyWest Airlines — which Byars said can take travelers to over 270 other connections.

"Getting service beyond that is called 'at-risk flights.' Big airlines are taking a chance on a community they don't know about," she said. "We put our offer in. We say, 'Hey, here's what we have. Would you want to come up here [and] fly us to Florida?' "

During her time at Barkley, Byars said the community's response to adding a coastal flight destination has been the biggest response she has seen to anything at the airport so far.

"We had 7,500 people take our survey, and with that came the milestone of 2,000 Barkley Pledge signers," she said. "The Barkley Pledge is an additional initiative; we ask you to sign it. It just says you support us and that you would really like to fly up to our airport."

The support has not only been from McCracken County; according to Byars, people from "all over" — including from Chicago and Houston — have signed up. She explained that Barkley will provide the surveys and signatures to airlines to show how many people are interested in a new route, increasing the odds of success.

"That's the beauty of the 'at-risk' — we just can make a really good pitch, get our ducks in a row, and hopefully we can get that here," she said.

The enthusiasm for a coastal flight route may be widespread, but there are still barriers to overcome. As Byars noted, the flights to Chicago and Houston are federally funded, but a flight to the beach may not be.

"We are federally funded to have one airline at a time, which right now is United, operated by SkyWest," she said. "The Florida flight will not be, so we have to start looking at those avenues of how do we subsidize this flight? That goes into the technical side that they're all working out right now."

She added that, to receive subsidized funding through the Essential Air Service — like with Barkley's Chicago and Houston flights — the airport must comply with EAS requirements and connect to a hub within a certain range.

"For us, it is Chicago, and the very edge of that is Houston," Byars said. "So, if we were to go in the Essential Air Service route, it would still have to be somehow in that radius. Not all Florida airports would likely be viable options for that."

The process of establishing a coastal flight route may be a long one, but in the future, Barkley may have a new destination in either Alabama, Louisiana, Florida or another beach location.

'Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving'

Transportation cabinet urges precaution during Halloween weekend

BY MESSENGER STAFF

In an effort to keep Kentuckians safe this Halloween, people are encouraged to watch for pedestrians, never drive drunk and plan a safe ride home if necessary, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

"Everyone deserves to enjoy Halloween and make it home safely at the end of the night," said Gov. Andy Beshear in an Oct. 24 press release. "Before you head out to celebrate, think about how you're getting home. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Make the safe choice and leave the keys behind."

Last year in Kentucky, there were 4,013 highway crashes involving an impaired driver, resulting in



1,887 injuries and 136 deaths. In the week leading up to and including Halloween, 84 alcohol-involved collisions resulted in two deaths and 30 injuries, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Office of Highway Safety.

State transportation officials are partnering with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to remind motorists and pedestrians that if they are under the influence of any substance, they are not safe to drive or walk.

"Celebrating Halloween should never come at the expense of someone's safety," said transportation cabinet secretary Rebecca Goodman. "If your plans include alcohol, make arrangements for a sober ride before you head out. And whether you're driving, walking or trick-or-treating, slow down, stay alert and look out for one another. A little planning can help everyone get home safely."

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet offered the following tips "for a safe celebration:"

- Plan a sober ride: Designate a sober driver, use public transportation or request a rideshare.
- Don't walk impaired alone: If you've been drinking, have a sober friend walk you home.
- Report impaired drivers: Call law enforcement and provide the vehicle's location, direction of travel and description, if possible.
- Take the keys: If someone plans to drive after drinking, help them find a safe ride home.
- Buckle up: Wear a seat belt on every trip. It can help protect you in a crash.

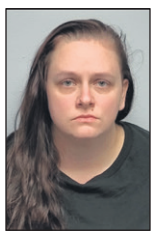
New details emerge in McCracken County daycare abuse case

BY ELIZABETH CRIDER, MELANIE ANTONITIS
FOR THE MESSENGER

A Farley daycare worker was arrested last week after severe bruises were discovered on a 3-year-old's genital area

Thirty-one-year-old Sadie Gallatin, an employee at Playcare Learning Center in Farley, was arrested on Thursday, Oct. 22, after detectives utilized security cameras as well as forensics to determine that 31-year-old Sadie Gallatin was responsible for the bruising found on the child, according to prior reporting and the McCracken County Sheriff's Office.

She was incarcerated in the McCracken County Jail and faces a charge of first degree criminal abuse, which is a Class B felony.



Sadie Gallatin

The newsroom recently obtained a copy of the arrest citation through an open records request, which provides additional context regarding her arrest.

According to the citation, Gallatin was responsible for the child at the time of the incident. Investigators determined that Gallatin took the child into the bathroom for a diaper change, where she was out of view of surveillance.

Deputies also allege that the pattern of bruising on the child was consistent with the width and shape of the fingernails worn by Gallatin. The warrant stated Gallatin was the only daycare employee identified as wearing nails of that type and was responsible for the child's care at the time.

A criminal complaint reasons that "the nature, location and severity of the injuries, considered in conjunction with the circumstances established during the investigation, provide probable cause to believe that Gallatin intentionally subjected a child under the age of twelve to cruel punishment by forcefully squeezing his genital area with sufficient force to cause severe bruising."

In its initial release, MCSO detectives said security cameras and forensics were utilized to identify Gallatin. The investigation began in late September, and Gallatin was subsequently arrested. She is charged with first-degree criminal abuse of a child under 13,

Playcare Learning Center in Farley declined to comment on the matter at this time.

GRAVES COUNTY FISCAL COURT

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Graves County Fiscal Court proposes to amend Section 7 of Ordinance No. 01-2025, the Graves County Business Occupational License Fee Ordinance.

The proposed amendment establishes a two (2) year period for submitting written requests for refunds or credits of occupational license fees paid to Graves County in error, subject to applicable Kentucky law. It also clarifies that businesses, employers, and licensees are responsible for determining whether occupational license fees are payable to Graves County or the City of Mayfield and for remitting such fees to the proper taxing jurisdiction.

The proposed amendment requires two readings before final adoption. The first reading was October 26, 2026. The second reading date will be announced by the Graves County Fiscal Court.

First Reading: October 26, 2026, Second Reading: November 9, 2026

The proposed amendment is available for public inspection at the Graves County Judge/Executive Office, 1102 Paris Road, Suite 2, Mayfield, Kentucky 42066, during regular business hours.

GRAVES COUNTY FISCAL COURT
Jesse Perry, Graves County Judge/Executive