

COMPETENT: No trial date set in case

from the front page

pretrial conference in the case. No trial date is currently scheduled in the case.

Petrey, 26, was indicted twice in September 2024. One indictment charged him with 32 counts of distribution of matter portraying a minor in a sexual performance.

The last 20 counts of the indictment alleged that on or about April 26, 2023, Petrey distributed and/or had in his possession with intent to distribute a matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor.

The last 12 counts of the indictment alleged that on June 27, 2024, Petrey had in his possession with intent to distribute a matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor less than 12 years of age.

A second indictment against Petrey charged him with three counts of possession or view of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor, and for one count of unlawful use of electronic means to induce a minor to engage in sexual conduct.

The Kentucky State Police (KSP) Electronic Crimes Branch initially located, interviewed and arrested Petrey on June 27, 2024, related to a child sexual abuse material (CSAM) investigation, which was the result of an Internet Crimes Against Children Investigation (ICAC), according to a KSP release and the arrest citation.

“The KSP Electronic Crime Branch began the investigation after receiving a complaint that the suspect was sharing sexually explicit images of juveniles to an online social media account. The investigation resulted in seizing electronic devices from Mr. Petrey and (from) his home in Williamsburg. These devices, believed to have been used to facilitate the crime, were taken to KSP’s forensic laboratory for examination,” state police wrote in the release.

Petrey allegedly admitted to “sending and receiving numerous files” which contained child sexual abuse material, according to his arrest citation.

CHILD ABUSE: School asked for welfare check

from the front page

Prosecutors recommended a five-year prison sentence, which will be probated for five years, after he serves six months in jail, according to court documents.

Judge Paul Winchester scheduled a Sept. 21 sentencing hearing in his case.

On July 30, Harp entered a pre-trial diversion to all five charges. As part of her plea deal, she received a five-year sentence, which will be diverted for five years after she serves six months in jail.

A pre-trial diversion allows for the charges to be wiped off a defendant’s record after the diversion period is complete.

A separate formal sentencing hearing was not required in her case.

Neither will have to serve any additional time behind bars after they complete six months in jail provided they stay out of trouble for the next five years.

Kentucky State Police Trooper Josh Roaden arrested the couple at approximately 3 p.m. on March 11 at their residence on Eatontown Road.

The investigation began after Roaden received a call from the Oak Grove Family Resource Center Coordinator Jodie Elliott in reference to a complaint about the welfare of a young student at the school, who was living at a residence with numerous other children, according to arrest citations.

The school asked for a welfare check at the residence while the children were at school, Roaden wrote on arrest citations.

When Roaden arrived at the residence, he learned a total of five young children lived at the residence.

Harp and Hamblin voluntarily allowed Roaden into the residence.

Roaden noted the interior of the residence was allegedly in a filthy and dangerous state. There was no water connected to the residence, piles of clothing, and trash throughout the residence and a young baby inside the residence who appeared filthy, the citations stated.

Both were incarcerated in the Whitley County Detention Center where they have remained since their arrest, according to detention center records.

RESCUE: Injured teen is expected to make full recovery

from the front page

“If the helicopter had not come, we were looking at probably a four-to-six-hour rope technical rescue to get him back out of there on top of fighting with snakes possibly biting rescuers or the victim. The helicopter really was a life saver to be able to extract him,” Rains noted.

While waiting on the arrival of the aircraft team, the Williamsburg Police Department responded with its drone to get the patient’s exact coordinates and to get a good view and pictures of the terrain for the KSP aircraft team, a Woodbine Search & Rescue release stated.

The KSP Aircraft Support Branch working alongside the Kentucky Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 (KY TF-1), conducted a precision nighttime helicopter hoist rescue to safely extract the injured hiker from the remote location.

A paramedic from the Georgetown-Scott County EMS, who is qualified as a helicopter-aquatic hoist rescue specialist through KY TF-1, accompanied

the flight crew to provide advanced medical care during the rescue effort.

Once the aircraft arrived at the scene, rescue personnel coordinated with the flight crew to establish a safe extraction plan.

Rains added this was the first aquatic helicopter hoist rescue in Whitley County history.

Rains said he spoke to the injured hiker Monday. He is a little sore but is expected to make a full recovery.

“It could have been a whole lot worse. If he had fallen just a few feet either way, it could have been fatal,” Rains added.

No one was injured during the rescue effort Friday.

One Woodbine Search & Rescue member got injured Saturday when they went back to retrieve the Zodiac raft.

“He actually fell down a cliff and injured his elbow and shoulder, but he is expected to make a full recovery. Nothing was broken. He was a just little bit bruised and banged up,” Rains said.

Rains said he has spoken with the KSP Aircraft Support Branch

GOLF: Prospective golf course could have had economic impact

from page A-11

was to be the golf course went back to nature.

This project would have been huge for the area.

One time, a politician I know told me he always felt like a much larger force pushed construction of the Williamsburg-Whitley County Airport beyond just the local officials who pushed for its development.

The airport is approximately 25 miles from Rarity Mountain and would have been the closest airport for people visiting the development to fly into. I am just saying.

If you have some local golf news you want to share, such as upcoming scrambles or recent accomplishments of local high school golfers, then e-mail me at mwhite@corbinnewsjournal.com. I may include the information in a future column.

REVOKED: Attorney asks judge to impose 10 year sentence, Aug. 13 hearing set in case

from the front page

If that were the law, every bank in Kentucky would immediately close and start calling itself a diversion program.”

“The Defendant’s conduct is not merely a violation of the Court’s Order – it is a slap in the face to victims, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, basic arithmetic, and everyone who somehow managed to pay exactly what they were ordered to pay. The commonwealth further notes that probation is intended to be an opportunity for rehabilitation, not a free trial with no cancellation fee.”

Dixon’s motion requests Sergent’s probation be revoked and for her 10-year sentence be imposed.

It also requests the court “remind everyone that stealing money does not qualify a person for zero-percent financing” and to “restore faith that court orders are, in fact, orders.”

An Aug. 13 hearing has been scheduled in the case.

As of Monday, Sergent had not filed a response to the motion.

Between May 27 and Sept 3, 2025, Sergent allegedly knowingly and unlawfully took grant money owned by the Williamsburg Resident Council (Save the Children) and used a debit card linked to the Save the Children grant account to obtain merchandise.

She was not authorized to use the card for personal use, according to her indictment.

The indictment also accused her of intentionally dealing with the Save the Children grant money as her own and failing to make the required payment or disposition.

“During the investigation, Officer [Bryson] Lawson obtained evidence that showed Betsy Sergent was in control of the credit card and has been using it for her personal purchases. Bank statements reference that several thousand dollars has been withdrawn from the account and raised question with the Williamsburg Resident Council,” a Williamsburg Police Department release stated.

Williamsburg Police Chief Jason Caddell explained the Williamsburg Resident Council is a group of housing authority residents.

It is indirectly affiliated with the housing authority, but the housing authority has no control over its money. He likened the group to a homeowner’s association.

The group does various fundraisers and puts the money into an account which is then used to pay for things, such as Christmas parties.

Sergent was a member of the group and had one of the two debit or credit cards for the group’s account, Caddell explained.

The resident council’s treasurer was contacted after the credit or debit card went into the red, and this is how the investigation started, Caddell said.

KAYAK: Still time to register for 10th annual Kayak for Kids race

from page A-4

will start at 8 a.m. on Saturday and the race will start at 10 a.m. This year’s race will start at the Croley Bend Boat Ramp and will go to the Ballard Ford East River Access.

This is great event, which raises money for a good cause. So, if you like getting out on the water, then you might want to take part.

Find out more information about this year’s race on the Whitley County Fiscal Court Facebook page or call the Whitley County Judge-Executive’s Office at (606) 549-6000.

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WHITLEY COUNTY FARMER COST-SHARE PROGRAM



KADF
KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Whitley County Cattlemen’s Association is administering a **Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund/County Agriculture Improvement Program (CAIP)** to help Whitley County farmers.

Applications are available at the Whitley County Cooperative Extension Service Office at the 4275 N. Hwy. 25W, Goldbug location in Williamsburg.

The application period will be **August 10th - 28th, 2026**

INFORMATION AT 606.261.0025

GILBERT TIRE CO.

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CLOSED FOR VACATION

JULY 27TH - AUGUST 9TH

We will reopen for business **August 10th**

Thank you for your business!

continued from page A-10

Clayton Manufactured Home VIN: CLH035454TNAB that will be sold as included with the real property. Property Address: 578 Casey Road, Corbin, KY 40701. Parcel/Map ID#: 068-00-00-018.090

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, 34TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WHITLEY CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION NO. 1, CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-503: Mortgage Research Center, LLC d/b/a Veterans United Home Loans, A Missouri Limited Liability Company, Plaintiff, VS. Adam Black, et al, Defendants. Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale entered by the Whitley Circuit Court on May 7, 2026, and any subsequent Orders entered. The judgment against the Defendants, plus costs, is as follows: The sum in the amount of \$265,496.13 plus interest at the rate of 6.25000 percent per annum from February 1, 2025, together with amounts for late fees and assessments for protection of the property including but not limited to taxes and insurance, escrow advances, and attorney fees for a total amount of \$284,293.04 as of March 11, 2026. Property Address: 971 Tyes Ferry Rd., Rockholds, KY 40759. Parcel/Map ID#: 142-00-00-072.13 & 142-00-00-072.16

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, 34TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WHITLEY CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION NO. 1, CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-610. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, Plaintiff, VS. Tammy Fisher, et al, Defendants. Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale entered by the Whitley Circuit Court on April 18, 2026, and any subsequent Orders entered. The In Rem judgment against the Defendants, plus costs, is as follows: The sum in the amount of \$123,763.32 plus interest at the rate of 6.00000 percent per annum from August 1, 2024, together with amounts for late fees and assessments for protection of the property including but not limited to taxes and insurance, escrow advances, and attorney fees for a total amount of \$152,000.41 as of March 12, 2026. Property Address: 10395 S Hwy 25 W, Williamsburg, KY 40769. Parcel/Map ID#: 134-00-00-002.00

Dated this 4th day of August, 2026.
HOWARD O. MANN, MASTER COMMISSIONER
WHITLEY CIRCUIT COURT
P. O. BOX 1344, CORBIN, KY 40702
PHONE: 606-528-0616