



INSIDE  
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## School bus director fired for sexual misconduct with staff

District violates Open Records Act via untimely response

BY GRANT GERSTNER  
EDITOR

Oldham County Schools Transportation Director Jeff Webb was fired for multiple reasons on Jan. 9, including “inappropriate sexual intimacy with an employee that [he] supervise[d], on Oldham County Schools property,” according to his personnel file obtained through an

Open Records Request. Records show that Webb was suspended with pay on Dec. 19 “due to allegations that have come to the district’s attention regarding misconduct and conduct unbecoming a school employee.” “The Superintendent has determined there is a justifiable need to prevent significant disruption to the workplace given the circumstances of the allegations.” Webb’s termination letter details that the district then “conducted



Jeff Webb

a full investigation which included interviewing numerous witnesses,” including Webb himself. From these interviews, the district gathered “corroborating accounts of immoral misconduct and inappropriate physical touch with a subordinate in the workplace” and an “eyewitness account of inappropriate sexual intimacy ... on Oldham County Schools property [on Dec. 16] ... “We are confident in these findings based on the volume of evidence

and the decision to terminate is final,” the termination letter states. Aside from the conduct issues, the letter also outlines multiple performance concerns, including: “Persistent failure to respond when support is needed ... leaving multiple staff members to ‘figure it out for themselves,’ and leaving them ‘feeling adrift’ ... [including] multiple accounts ... of unanswered emails and failure to follow through with tasks after saying you would take care of the situation. “Failure to follow through with accountability when your employees completed non-work

related items on the clock. This includes allowing employees to wrap gifts, sew, make quilts, and complete tasks for their other jobs while still on the clock. “Failure to follow through with employee accountability when your staff did not meet deadlines and failed to complete assigned tasks ... [including] bus routes that were incomplete and inaccurate during preschool open house, preschool routes that were completed at the last minute which left the preschool without important information they

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Photo by Nicky Byers

An aerial photo taken by drone of the January blanket of snow in Oldham County.

## Extreme winter conditions blanket Kentucky

BY ERA STAFF

Gov. Andy Beshear on Monday urged Kentuckians to stay off roadways and remain indoors as crews continue working to restore power and treat slick roads following a severe winter storm that brought snow, sleet and ice across the commonwealth.

Locally, the storm closed Oldham County Schools through Tuesday, shut down county offices, the library, health department and numerous businesses. “This storm blanketed Kentucky with snow, sleet and ice for 36 hours straight and now dangerously low temperatures will continue,” Beshear said in the release.

Beshear said temperatures will remain dangerously cold throughout the week, with wind chills as low as minus 20 degrees in parts of the state. Exposure at those temperatures can cause hypothermia or frostbite in as little as 10 to 30 minutes, particularly during the morning hours. Kentucky Emergency Man-

agement has established 137 warming centers statewide for residents without power. Kentuckians can locate nearby warming centers or request assistance through the Kentucky Emergency Management website. Several Kentucky State Parks lodges and

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## Grand Jury indicts 7

BY ERA STAFF

The Oldham Grand Jury indicted seven individuals after meeting on Jan. 16, with charges involving drugs, distribution of a matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor and intimidating a participant in a legal process. Richard B. Sewell, 25, is charged with five counts of distribution of a matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor, under 12 years old, each a class B felony; and distribution of an obscene matter to a minor, first offense, a class A misdemeanor.



Richard B. Sewell

According to his indictment, Sewell “[knowingly] exhibited for profit or gain, or distributed, offered to distribute or had possession with the intent to distribute any matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor [under 12 years of age].” Sewell is currently being held at the Oldham County Detention Center on a \$25,000 full-cash, no-surety bond and has an arraignment scheduled for Jan. 29 at 11 a.m. Also indicted was 39-year-old Cordero R. Johnson, who is charged with first-degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, fentanyl, a class D felony; intimidating a participant in a legal process, a class D felony; possession of marijuana, a class B misdemeanor; and a rear license not illuminated violation. A police citation details that, on Jan. 16, Johnson was driving north on Interstate 71 with a passenger while his license plate not illuminated. When performing a traffic stop, police “immediately smelled the odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle.” Police had Johnson and the passenger exit the vehicle to perform a probable cause search, finding “a bindle of cocaine next to the gear shifter easily within reach of both

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## Court sends data center regulations back for revision

Citizens speak out against Flock cameras

BY GRANT GERSTNER  
EDITOR

The long-awaited regulations on data centers were denied by the Oldham County Fiscal Court during its Jan. 20 meeting with the expectation to send the regulations — alongside multiple magistrates’ requested changes — to the Planning and Zoning

Commission to be revised. Prior to the public hearing or any debate, Planning and Development Director Ryan Fischer gave a summary of the timeline of the regulations: “This started back on April 24, 2025, with our first Study Review Committee meeting.” After three Study Review Committee meetings, Judge Executive David Voegel initiated the Business and Infrastructure Task Force in August, who met six times before sending the

regulations to the Study Review Committee once more on Sept. 25, where they were approved to be sent forward. The Planning and Zoning Commission then met on Oct. 28, where they amended the regulations and voted to send them to the fiscal court for final approval. Fischer also presented data showing the number of different parcels in Oldham County where different sizes of data centers would be permitted by the proposed regulations:

About 51 parcels are zoned “C-4,” commercial highway district; about 197 are zoned “I-1,” light industrial; about 175 are zoned “I-2,” heavy industrial; and about 105 zoned “IPD,” industrial park district. “So when you think of county-wide, we’re dealing with a small portion of the county in terms of these four zoning districts,” Fischer said. All property owners can apply to change their zoning, though

SEE **COURT/PAGE A7**



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