

LAND

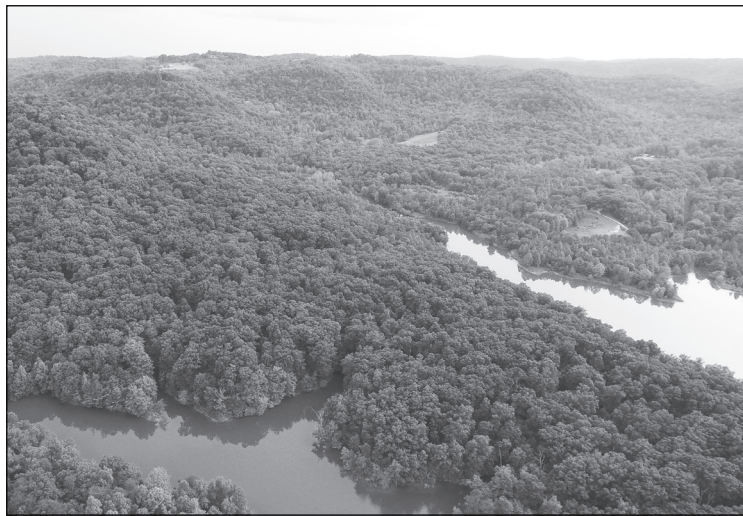
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electric reliability and capacity for customers served by Blue Grass Energy. The plan includes construction of a substation and an 8.3-mile transmission line, portions of which would cross Berea College property in Madison and Jackson counties.

To build the line, EKPC sought to condemn about 15.5 acres of easements through the college's forest. The utility argued the project was necessary to meet growing demand and ensure reliable service.

Berea College did not dispute the need for improved electrical infrastructure but opposed the selected route, citing the ecological, educational, and cultural importance of its forest.

Following a two-day hearing in February, the circuit court concluded that while



BEREA COLLEGE PHOTO

Berea College's forest in Madison County is shown in this file photo. The 9,000-acre woodland, used for education, recreation, and conservation, is at the center of a legal dispute after East Kentucky Power Cooperative appealed a court ruling blocking a proposed transmission line route across property owned by Berea College.

EKPC demonstrated a legitimate need for the project, its decision-making process was flawed.

The court found the utility relied heavily on a computer-based routing model to

select the transmission line path and did not adequately consider the specific characteristics or current use of the affected land before choosing the route.

Evidence showed the cho-

sen path would pass through the "Windswept" area of the college's forest, a highly visible and frequently visited piece of the property.

Judge Clouse ruled that EKPC's failure to weigh the forest's unique qualities amounted to an abuse of discretion under Kentucky's eminent domain laws, which require condemning authorities to act reasonably and not arbitrarily.

With the appeal now pending, the case will move to the Kentucky Court of Appeals, where judges will determine whether the lower court correctly interpreted and applied the law.

The outcome could have broader implications for how utilities in Kentucky plan infrastructure projects and exercise eminent domain, particularly when proposed routes affect land with significant environmental or community value.

JAIL

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criminal charges.

"We do not tolerate any mistreatment of inmates and will not hesitate to act when warranted. Thankfully, the inmate was not injured in the attack," Brock said.

In a statement released by KSP, the KSP Richmond Post was contacted on March 27, 2026, just before 9 a.m. in reference to an alleged assault that occurred at the Madison County Detention Center involving a detention center employee and an inmate. Preliminary information indicates KSP was requested by local officials to investigate an incident involving a physical altercation between a deputy jailer and an inmate inside the facility. Detectives responded to the scene and began investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The investigation remains ongoing by KSP Post 7 Detective Adam Hall. Once the investigation is complete, the findings will be presented to the Madison County Commonwealth Attorney's Office.



BLAKE VICKERS — RR

Deputy Sheriff Jennifer Kermeen checks in on K9 Spike

MANHUNT

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Morphis had shot a woman on Kentucky River Road on March 27. He had been on the run ever since.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office had been taking part in a collaborative effort to find Morphis with the Richmond Police Department, the Berea Police Department, the Kentucky State Police, and even the U.S. Marshall service.

A heavy number of tips on Morphis' location also played a big part in the investigation.

Kermeen said that Madison County can be a particularly challenging place for manhunts. Its natural terrain plays a big part in that.

"You have to think about the location that the incident occurred. It wasn't far

from the Kentucky River. If you're familiar with Jack's Creek Road, its cliffs and rock walls, more cliffs, dense woods, creeks. That makes finding anything — not just a person — more challenging," Kermeen said.

Further adding to that challenge was Morphis himself, who Kermeen says has experience handling dogs. Meaning he had a better idea than many on how to avoid K9 units. Kermeen said he claimed to have slept in caves, taken his clothes off and hid in a creek, and even covered himself in cow manure to cover his scent.

He allegedly lived on morel mushrooms, crawfish, and wild onions during this time.

While some of those details may come off as bizarre, the search for him by county law enforcement and the U.S. Marshalls was

anything but. He was considered armed and dangerous.

"In situations like this, you can't always do it by yourself. Everybody has to work together to pool their resources in order to end this as quickly and safely as possible," Kermeen said.

A heavy number of tips on Morphis' location also played a big part in the investigation.

According to Madison County Sheriff Mike Coyle, one of them led Kermeen and other deputies to the Village Court Bridge on April 3rd.

"We had sightings off and on through the week. On April 3rd, we had a tip from the public and our people were close. It was fortunate that our people had K9's with them. That program has been very good for Madison County," Coyle said.

Kermeen, Deputy

Jeremy Lakes, and fellow K9 handler Jeremy Hamilton set up a perimeter when they arrived at Village Court. Kermeen ended up spotting the suspect peeking his head out from one of the bridge's culverts in the creek below.

Taking advantage of that split second moment, Kermeen, Spike, and Deputy Lakes quickly made their way down to the creek under the bridge, surrounding Morphis from two sides while giving their announcements that they were coming.

"I gave my final announcement and said 'Come out with your hands in the air or you will get dog bit.' At this point, I'm ready to let go of the leash and send Spike in there. But (Morphis) comes out with his hands in the air," Kermeen said.

Morphis surrendered to

the deputies peacefully. No force, or dog bite necessary. Kermeen thinks it's all because of the K9 units on scene.

"It's because of Spike the incident ended the way it did. (Dogs) bring a certain psychological element to the table. You can get out on a call with your window rolled down and somebody will hear a K9. It will change the entire outcome of the call without the dog even needing to leave the cruiser," Kermeen said.

Dog handlers are never really off the clock. K9's like Spike come home with their human partners every night. They live together, work together, and train as much as possible. Kermeen says that K9 units need to be ready for every scenario imaginable — even outlandish ones. Not just so the dogs know what to do, but that their handlers

know how they're going to react.

Sheriff Coyle praised the K9 unit for their work catching Morphis. He likened them to a specific tool that turned out to be perfect for this scenario.

"(Morphis) didn't want any part of them. He Gave up. It just goes to show that when you have the right tools for the job, things work out. (Morphis) wasn't harmed. The public wasn't in danger. Our people were safe. It worked out great. I'm so proud of our agency and the other agencies that came together to find this guy," Coyle said.

Morphis is set to appear in court for a preliminary hearing on April 15. He faces several charges including attempted murder, assault, and failing to comply with the sex offender registry.

Richmond Utilities

300 Hallie Irvine St.
PO BOX 700 - Richmond, KY 40476-0700
(859) 623-2323

Richmond Utilities Announces Silent Fleet & Equipment Auction

Richmond Utilities will be conducting a silent auction for surplus fleet vehicles and equipment. This auction presents an opportunity for the public to purchase a variety of utility vehicles and equipment at competitive prices.

All items will be sold "AS IS", with no warranties or guarantees expressed or implied. Interested bidders are encouraged to inspect items prior to submitting their bids.

Vehicles and equipment may be inspected at 537 Tates Creek Avenue on April 15th and 16th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day.

Sealed bids must be submitted in person at the following location:
300 Hallie Irvine Street, Richmond, KY 40475

Bids must be received by 11:00am on Tuesday April 28th 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Bidders are responsible for all applicable taxes, transfer fees, and removal of purchased items from the property. Payments will be made payable to Richmond Utilities - certified check or money orders will only be accepted.

Richmond Utilities reserves the right to refuse any and/or all bids.

Item #	Year	Make	Model	VIN Number
1	2000	Ford	F-450 (4x4)	1fdxf46f1yed98510
2	2008	Chevrolet	Silverado (2x4)	2gcek190781311272
3	2010	Dodge	Dakota (4x4)	1d7ce3bk3as151067
4	2001	Ford	F-350 (4x4)	1fdwf36f21ed06200
5	2005	Ford	F-150 (4x4)	1ftfr14w85kf13678
6	1990	Chevrolet	C7H042	1gbj7h1pxj202012
7	2012	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	1gcncpeaocz124826
8	2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500 (4x4)	1gchk39d76e138893
9	2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 3500 (4x4)	1gchk34c56e137977
10	2006	Chevrolet	Silverado 2500	1gchr24u36e114038
11	2007	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500 (2x4)	18cec14c875237778
12	1998	GMC	C8500	18dp7h1j8wj511096
13	2000	GMC	C-6500	1gdj6h1d0yj504097
14	2002	John Deere	Mower	MOX4751011515

NOTICE OF SALE – RECEIVER'S REAL ESTATE ABSOLUTE AUCTION

In accordance with Court Order Civil Action No. 25-CI-00157 in the Madison Circuit Court, an Absolute Auction will be held selling Equipment and Real Estate for the property at:

151 Hanger Circle, Richmond, KY 40475

Open House: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sale Date: Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Location: 151 Hanger Circle, Richmond, KY 40475

For Terms and Conditions,

please call Mark Ruben, Receiver, at (859) 509-0909.