

Federal child exploitation trial pushed to November

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
Staff Writer

LONDON — The federal trial for two Knox County defendants charged in a child exploitation case has been postponed until November, according to records filed in U.S. District Court.

Rachel Baker, 22, of Bimble, and co-defendant Bradley Kyle Yeager, 35,

Heidrick, are each charged federally with one count of production of child pornography.

A motion filed by Baker's attorney requested a 90-day continuance of the trial, which had been scheduled to begin next Tuesday, Aug. 11. The filing states prosecutors expect to provide several thousand additional pages of discovery, and Baker's defense intends to seek a mental health evaluation.

Prosecutors had no objection to Baker's motion to continue, and Yeager's attorney also filed no objection.

On July 23, U.S. District Judge Claria Horn Boom granted the motion, removing the Aug. 11 trial date from the court's

docket and rescheduling the jury trial for Nov. 10 at 9 a.m. in U.S. District Court in London.

In the order, the court found the continuance was justified because defense counsel needs additional time to review the anticipated discovery and complete Baker's mental health evaluation. The court also ruled the delay is excluded under the Speedy Trial Act.

The federal case stems from an investigation that began in May after the Barbourville Police Department uncovered allegations involving the online sharing of child sexual exploitation material. The Kentucky State Police Electronic Crime Branch later joined the investi-

gation, which authorities said could involve multiple victims across several counties and possibly other states.

Yeager, a former South Laurel High School teacher, and Baker also face state charges, including promoting human trafficking involving a minor and promoting a sexual performance by a minor.

Two copper wire theft arrests made in Knox County

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
Staff Writer

WARREN CAMP — A Knox County Sheriff's Office investigation into the theft of copper wire belonging to Windstream has resulted in two arrests, with warrants issued for two other suspects identified during the investigation.

According to Monday's press release, Deputy Thomas Martin responded to a complaint of individuals cutting wire along KY 225 near the Warren Camp area at approximately 11:50 p.m. on Sunday, July 26.

When Deputy Martin arrived, three men reportedly fled into nearby woods. Martin also discovered a maroon Cadillac parked at the scene with a large quantity of copper wire

belonging to Windstream sticking out from the trunk.

That night, deputies were able to locate and arrest one of the suspects hiding in the woods — 50-year-old Jerry Darren Owens of Pineville. Owens was charged with theft by unlawful taking or disposition over \$10,000 and first-degree criminal mischief. Authorities also said he was wanted on a Bell County bench warrant for failure to appear on charges of fire-degree trafficking in a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

He was lodged in the Knox County Detention Center.

The investigation stems from an earlier report received on Thursday, July 23, when Knox County Sheriff Mike Smith and

deputies responded to the Trosper area after receiving a complaint that Windstream copper wire had been stolen. While searching the area, deputies located a large amount of cut wire hidden along the tree line near KY 225.

Investigators later identified a suspect in that theft. On Tuesday, July 28, deputies arrested 35-year-old Kyle Hammons of Scalf and charged him with theft by unlawful taking or disposition over \$10,000. Authorities reported that tools believed to have been used to cut the wire were also found inside his vehicle.

Hammons was also wanted on a Knox County arrest warrant charging him with theft by unlawful taking or disposition involving shoplifting, according

to the press release. He was lodged in the Knox County Detention Center.

In regards to the Sunday, July 26 incident, the sheriff's office stated the investigation remains ongoing. The two other suspects who fled the scene have been identified, and arrest warrants have been obtained.

Having had not guilty pleas entered on their behalf at arraignment, Owens is scheduled to appear in Knox District Court for a preliminary hearing on August 18 while Hammons' case is awaiting grand jury consideration.

Man sentenced to 10 years after failure to comply with sex offender registration

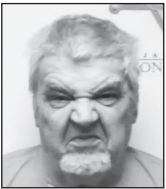
BY MACEE SWAFFORD
Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG — Ronnie Bowling, Commonwealth's Attorney for Whitley and McCreary counties, announced Wednesday that Christopher May, 67, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison after being convicted of failing to comply with

Whitley County Detention Center show May was originally arrested on Dec. 20, 2024, by Williamsburg Police Department officers Dorman Patrick, Chad Foley and Colby Cornett.

Court records from the

SEE SENTENCED, PAGE A10



CHRISTOPHER MAY

Kentucky's sex offender registration requirements.

According to a press release from Bowling, May was convicted (upon a guilty plea) of Failure to Comply with Sex Offender Registration, Second Offense, as well as being a Persistent Felony Offender.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney John L. Reynolds, who negotiated the plea agreement last month. The release said the investiga-



818 S. Main St., London, KY 40741
Phone 606-528-2464 | Fax: 606-878-7404

/timestribune.newspaper

BILL ATKINSON | Publisher
batkinson@crossville-chronicle.com

JANIE SLAVEN | Editor
jslaven@thetimestribune.com

MACEE SWAFFORD
Staff Writer
jeldridge@sentinel-echo.com

SHARI SEVIER
Production Manager
advertising@sentinel-echo.com

The Times-Tribune (USPS 132-480) is published each Thursday. Periodicals postage is paid at U.S. Post Office, Corbin, KY 40701. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to the Times-Tribune, PO Box 516, Corbin, KY 40702.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Twelve Months - \$91.00; Six Months - \$45.50; Three Months - \$22.75

EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR SERVICE?

Call us at (606) 528-2464.

BRAD HALL | Design Editor
bhall@thetimestribune.com

PATRICIA HUMPHREY
Advertising Sales
thumphrey@thetimestribune.com

JESSIE ELDRIDGE | Salesperson
jeldridge@sentinel-echo.com

RHAE HOSKINS
Circulation District Manager
RHoskins@sekypub.com

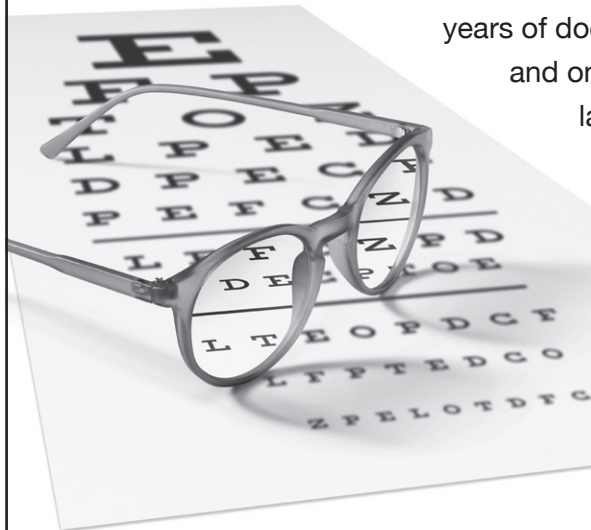
SEE THE DIFFERENCE AT YOUR DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

Most Kentuckians rely on their local doctor of optometry for primary eye care. Optometrists:

- detect vision problems, eye diseases and injuries
- prescribe glasses, contacts, and medications
- coordinate care with other healthcare providers

A comprehensive eye exam can reveal signs of serious health conditions, including diabetes and high blood pressure, often detecting diseases before symptoms appear elsewhere.

Doctors of optometry complete four years of doctoral-level education and ongoing training in the latest eye care advances in treatments and technology.



CARE YOU CAN SEE
Brought to you by Kentucky Doctors of Optometry

kyeyes.org/careyoucansee

LEGAL NOTICE		
In accordance with Chapters 65 and 424 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the financial report and supporting data may be inspected by the public at the Whitley County Conservation District, located at 1707 Cumberland Falls Hwy, Suite L3, Corbin, KY, between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday. Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 9:00am, except for November and December, and are open to the public. Citizens serving on the Whitley County Conservation District Board of Supervisors are:		
Mr. Jackie R. Smith	165 Wild Horse Way, Corbin, KY 40701	Chairman
Owen "Glen" Croley	183 Clover Brook Lane, Corbin, Ky 40701	Vice Chairman
Harold Prewitt	211 Angel Road, Williamsburg, KY 40769	Sec-Treasurer
Anne Bays	1970 West Hwy 204, Williamsburg, KY 40769	Member
Joann Siler	114 Lud Tolliver Road, Williamsburg KY 40769	Member
Mr. Brian Prewitt	325 E. S. Pittman Road, Corbin, KY 40701	Member
Mr. Marvin Lee Bryant	P.O. Box 396 Williamsburg, KY 40769	Member
Mr. Danny Jones	1000 Ryan Cemetery Road, Williamsburg, KY 40769	Associate
Mr. Carl Rains	20 Pleasant Ridge Lane, Woodbine, KY 40771	Associate