

Criminal gets two more years for threatening prosecutor

STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD A Rowan County man already serving a 15-year sentence will spend two additional years in prison, Attorney General Russell Coleman announced Friday.

Michael Hall, 48, pleaded guilty to one count of intimidating a participant in the legal process, which is a Class D felony. He was sentenced to two years to run consecutively to his current stint. Hall was sentenced in May 2024 to 15 years for attempted murder, assault, strangulation and wanton endangerment charges.

This additional two-year sentence is a result of pleading guilty to making threats against the Rowan County Commonwealth’s Attorney.

According to court documents, Hall was recorded during a jail phone call in October 2023 threatening Commonwealth’s Attorney Ashton McKenzie. At the time, McKenzie was prosecuting Hall for the aforementioned violent offenses.

Court records show Hall admitted he made the threats in an attempt to influence the outcome of his case.

“There will be zero tolerance for those attempting to tamper with justice and threaten our public servants who administer the rule of law,” AG Coleman said.

Kentucky State Police investigated the case. Assistant Attorney General Barbara Maines Whaley prosecuted the case.



HALL

PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CONTRACT 152-22-01
UTILITIES RELOCATION
KY 1 AT EAST CARTER HIGH SCHOOL
GRAYSON UTILITIES COMMISSION
GRAYSON, KENTUCKY**

Sealed proposals for the following work will be received by the Grayson Utilities Commission, Grayson, Kentucky, at the Grayson Utilities Commission office, 671 South State Highway 7, Grayson, Kentucky 41143, until 2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, September 25, 2025, for furnishing labor and materials and performing all work as set forth by the Advertisement, General Conditions, Specifications, and/or Drawings prepared by Bell Engineering. Immediately following the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids, all proposals which have been submitted in accordance with the above conditions will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work to be bid is described as follows:

CONTRACT 152-22-01

Gas, water, and sewer utility line relocations consisting of approximately 2,400 linear feet of 3-inch, 6-inch, and 8-inch restrained joint, PVC pipe; approximately 1,700 linear feet of 2-inch and 4-inch welded steel pipe; approximately 1,025 linear feet of 1-inch, 4-inch, and 6-inch high-density polyethylene pipe and approximately 466 linear feet of 12-inch steel casing pipe. Multiple individual driveway and road crossings for these pipes and service lines will be required.

Drawings, Specifications and Contract Documents may be examined at the following places:

Grayson Utilities Commission 671 South State Highway 7 Grayson, Kentucky 41143	Bell Engineering 2480 Fortune Drive, Suite 350 Lexington, Kentucky 40509
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or may be obtained from **Lynn Imaging, 328 Old Vine Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507, phone 859/255-1021**, upon receipt of non-refundable deposit as follows:

CONTRACT 152-22-01--\$200.00

Sealed proposals for this Contract shall be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope as follows:

“Sealed Proposal for Contract 152-22-01. Not to be opened until 2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, September 25, 2025.”

If forwarded by mail, the sealed envelope containing the proposal must be enclosed in another envelope and mailed to the Grayson Utilities Commission, 671 South State Highway 7, Grayson, Kentucky 41143, allowing sufficient time for such mailing to reach this address prior to the scheduled closing time for receipt of proposals.

Bids shall be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond made payable to the Grayson Utilities Commission, Kentucky, in an amount not less than the percent of the base bid indicated in Specification Section 00200, Instructions to Bidders, Bid Security. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of 90 days after the date bids are opened. He may, however, withdraw his bid at any time prior to the time and date scheduled for opening of same or any authorized postponement thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered and will be returned unopened to the bidder.

The attention of all contractors is called to the fact that any contract awarded under this Advertisement for Bids is expected to be funded in full by the OWNER.

The OWNER’s funds will be provided from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Work to be performed by contractors involved in this project are not subject to the minimum wage rates established by the U.S. Department of Labor under the provisions of the Davis Bacon Act.

State and federal wage rates do not apply to this Contract.

The Grayson Utilities Commission may consider informal any bid not prepared and submitted in accordance with the provisions of this advertisement and/or the Specifications and may waive any informalities or reject any and all bids.

GRAYSON UTILITIES COMMISSION
Gerald W. Haney, Superintendent
Published September 6, 2025

Multi-state fugitive indicted in Boyd County

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG A Boyd County grand jury indicted a drug-trafficking suspect who Ashland Police said was a multi-state fugitive earlier this week.

Shannon Badalamenti, 47, of Rush — originally from West Virginia, according to APD — was indicted on charges of first-degree trafficking of meth (greater or equal to 2 grams), first-degree cocaine trafficking (greater than 4 grams) and fentanyl

trafficking. He is in Boyd County Detention Center on a \$100,000 bond.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt. A grand jury found probable cause based on evidence.

The following people remain innocent until proven guilty:

- Adam Christian, 36, of Catlettsburg, was indicted on charges of operating on a suspended/revoked operators license, reckless driving, fleeing/evading police and expired tags.

- Kyle J. Greer, 29, of Grayson, was indicted on the following

charges: public intoxication-controlled substance, heroin possession, meth possession and drug paraphernalia buy/possess.

- Tyler S. Callihan, 38, of an unknown address, was indicted on first-degree promoting contraband, first-degree possession of meth and second-degree possession of an unspecified drug.

- Tracy Oxendine, 47, of Catlettsburg, was indicted on these charges: first-degree promoting contraband, public intoxication-controlled substance and first-degree meth possession

(second offense).

- Steven C. Ferguson, 55, of Rush, was indicted on a meth possession charge.

- Layne Nichols, 54, of Dayton, Ohio, was indicted on a meth possession charge.

- Todd N. Lawhorn, 46, of Ashland, was indicted on charges of public intoxication-controlled substance and heroin possession.

- Eric L. Summers, 37, of South Point, was indicted on a charge of meth possession.

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Judge denies bond reduction for veteran with multiple DUIs

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG A Boyd County circuit court judge denied a bond reduction for a military veteran who has been charged with operating a vehicle under the influence four times since the beginning of 2024.

David P. Ferguson, 46, of Ashland, is in the Boyd County Detention Center on a \$50,000 bond after being arrested in early July.

He was indicted on charges of fourth-or-greater-offense operating a vehicle under the influence of substances, driving on a DUI-suspended license, failure to surrender/revoked operator’s license and expired registration.

Ferguson appeared in court Friday via videoconference from the jail in front of Judge George Davis.

While the defense argued to lower bond based on no criminal history prior to “this brief period” of similar arrests, Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Gary Conn said he’s concerned for the public if Ferguson is released from jail.

Both Conn and Davis voiced

their appreciation to Ferguson for service to his country, but the judge ultimately agreed with Conn that it would be dangerous to increase the chances of his release by lowering the bond.

The defense said Ferguson “desperately needs and wants help.”

Judge Davis said that should’ve sought help after the first DUI, or at the latest, the second DUI.

All of the DUIs, Conn said, resulted in single-car accidents.

The latest one — earlier this summer — occurred near Rose Hill Baptist Church where Winslow Road and Roberts Drive intersect.

KSP Trooper John Holbrook testified in court Friday. When Holbrook arrived, he said, he saw Ferguson leaning against the back side of his truck. A bystander believed Ferguson was under the influence.

Holbrook believed the same, he said, after observing constricted pupils, difficulty maintaining balance and slow or slurred speech. Holbrook said Ferguson failed sobriety tests.

Holbrook said Ferguson was cooperative throughout the process, but he did refuse a blood test.

“Each time he’s been arrested, he’s been involved in a single-car accident,” Conn said. “... It gives me pause to let him out on bond because he’s going to be driving and impaired, and maybe next time it won’t be a single-car accident.”

Davis shared the same fear.

“Being a veteran does not give you a get-out-of-jail card for free,” Davis said.

The judge said while, yes, Ferguson has been cooperative and made court appearances, the second factor of bond is protecting the public.

“This is an individual completely out of control,” Davis said. Davis said there’s a “significant chance” Ferguson will repeat the pattern and the circumstances could be much more devastating.

“The bond remains as set,” Davis said.

The judge said court-ordered treatment could be in the future for Ferguson, but that was not the purpose of Friday’s hearing.

Ferguson’s next pretrial conference is set for Friday, Oct. 17.

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Louisville couple wins \$50K in lottery

STAFF REPORT

A Louisville couple won \$50,000 this week during the Powerball \$1.7 billion jackpot run.

The couple, who asked to remain anonymous, recently matched all four white-ball winning numbers and the Powerball on a ticket they purchased at Kroger at 2440 Bardstown Road in Louisville, according to a news release.

They bought their ticket on Sunday, Aug. 31, after having brunch with some friends, stated the release. On the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 2, the day after the Labor Day Powerball drawing, the wife checked their ticket.

“I looked at it and saw that I had won \$100,” the wife said. “It was wonderful. A hundred dollars. I was happy with that.”

Later that night, she looked at the ticket again ahead of cashing it. “I guess I was just crazy when I first looked at it because I realized I forgot to look at the Powerball number,” she

joked.

Home alone and realizing she had just won \$50,000, she didn’t have anyone to tell the good news to. “He was at an event where he was unreachable, so I didn’t know what to do,” she said, according to the Kentucky Lottery release.

When her husband got home, he was ready to tell his wife about the event.

“So I wanted to talk to her about my event, but she said she had something else she had to talk to me about,” he said. “She handed me the ticket and asked me to double-check it. She wasn’t telling me anything; she doesn’t say a word. I ask her if something was wrong and she goes (he gives the two thumbs-up gesture that his wife gave to him).”

After they both double-checked their numbers on the Kentucky Lottery website, the win sank in.

“It was \$50,000. I was like great. I love it. I love my job and what I am doing so it’s not quit-work money but it’s redo-the-house money,” he said.

The couple walked away with \$36,000 after taxes. The Bardstown Road Kroger will receive \$500 for selling the winning ticket.

The Powerball \$1.7 billion jackpot drawing is Saturday night at 11. Kentuckians can purchase their Powerball tickets at any of the Kentucky Lottery’s 3,500 retailers across the state or at kyllottery.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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There will be a meeting for Boyd County Fiscal Court on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 12 pm. It will be held at 2800 Louisa Street, Catlettsburg, KY 41129.

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MEETING

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. — Greenup County Board of Health, Greenup County Health Department in the Willis C. Potter Health Education Center, to address budget, health taxing district budget reports, strategic planning overview and flu vaccination prices. For more information, call (606) 473-9838.

Staff report