



SPORTS

TAYLOR SWEEPS  
MARION BASEBALL  
KNIGHTS

Page B1

# The Lebanon Enterprise

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025 · \$2 · VOL. 139, NO. 53

## Wethington pleads guilty, sentenced to 30 years

BY DENIS HOUSE

DHOUSE@LEBANONENTERPRISE.COM

The man charged with multiple sex-related counts appeared in Marion Circuit Court on April 9, where he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 30 years.

David Wethington, 40, was scheduled to go to trial on April 21 but instead entered a guilty plea. Wethington was charged with eight counts of first-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, illegal sex act under 16 years of age, and six counts of first-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, illegal controlled substance under 16 years of age (one count was dismissed), for which he received 20 years from Judge Todd Spalding; eight counts of second-degree unlawful transaction with

a minor (5 years, enhanced by first-degree persistent felony offender for a total of 10 years), one count of human trafficking-commercial sex activity under 18 years of age (20 years), eight counts of promoting a sex performance by a minor under 16 years of age, (10 years, enhanced on one count and 20 years on the other seven counts), 17 counts of third-degree rape (5 years enhanced for a total of 10 years), seven counts of third-degree sodomy (5 years, enhanced, for a total of 10 years), five counts of first-degree sexual abuse (5 years enhanced), eight counts of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (greater or equal to 2 grams of methamphetamine) (10 years, enhanced), and first-degree



David Wethington

possession of a controlled substance, third or greater offense (methamphetamine) (3 years to run concurrently). The charges of second-degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (less than 20 dosage units drug unspecified schedule 3), and two counts of second-degree possession of a controlled substance-drug unspecified were dismissed. All counts will run concurrently.

On March 7 at 10:14 a.m., officials with the Marion County Sheriff's Office went to 200 Frogtown Road, about four miles west of Lebanon, in an attempt to execute service of multiple warrants of arrest. As the officials were entering the residence, a male, later identified as

Wethington, fled on foot out a rear entrance and was found hiding behind a brush pile on the property and was taken into custody on a parole violations warrant. An adult female, Katelyn McKenzie, of Lebanon, was also taken into custody on a parole violation warrant.

The officials also found a 14-year-old juvenile inside the residence that had been reported as a runaway on March 5. A third individual, Wethington's father, Francis Wethington, of Lebanon, was also found inside the residence, along with what officials observed to be illegal drugs.

Wethington must register as a sex offender for life and the order was signed for him to be returned to Green River Correctional Complex. His final sentencing is set for June 26 at 9:00 a.m.

## \$1.3 million allocated for roads in Marion County

### Fiscal Court gets surprise visit from Congressman Comer

BY JANE REID KLEYN

EDITOR@LEBANONENTERPRISE.COM

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet announced Marion County will be receiving over \$1.3 million for local roadways. The announcement came at the Marion County Fiscal Court meeting on Thursday, April 17.

The state has allocated \$262,722 to resurface 2.2 miles of KY 152 from Highway 49 to the Washington County line. An additional \$204,148 has been allocated for a 1.6-mile section of Highway 327 between Highway 84 and Highway 49 and \$116,428 will be used to resurface KY 429 for Hwy. 55 to Hwy 2154.

Additionally, \$570,000 from the Rural Secondary Roads Program has been designated for routine maintenance of county roads, \$190,129 in "Flex Funds", and \$3,875 for County Judge Executive's expenses related to road maintenance for a total of \$1,347,702.

The Rural Secondary Roads Program is funded by 22.2% of the Motor Fuel Tax receipts of the state. Funds for routine maintenance are allocated to all 120 counties based on a five-point formula: one-fifth equally among all counties; one-fifth based on rural population, one-fifth based on road miles and two-fifths based on land area. The money designated for each county is based on estimates of Motor Fuel Tax receipts for the fiscal year. This money is sent to the county in



JANE REID KLEYN/The Lebanon Enterprise

**Congressman James Comer made a surprise visit to Marion County fiscal court on Thursday, April 17. Magistrates Craig Bishop, Joe Pat Kirkland and Calab Buckman listen as Congressman Comer gives an update on issues before Congress in Washington D.C.**

three installments. In August, the county receives 60% of the money allocated, another 30% is received in late winter/early spring. The remaining 10% is disbursed in June and is adjusted based on actual fuel tax receipts for the year.

Representatives from the state road departments said two roundabouts on the bypass should be completed in November and construction on the round-about by Kroger should begin in the

fall. Following questions and updates regarding ongoing road projects, the court received a surprise visit from Congressman James Comer. Representative Comer updated the court on various issues at the national level and some of the proposed spending cuts currently before Congress. One he highlighted was the proposal to eliminate the U.S. Department

SEE ROADS/PAGE A2

## Cissell has motions hearing set

BY DENIS HOUSE

DHOUSE@LEBANONENTERPRISE.COM

The man charged with 17 sex-related counts with three minors appeared in Marion Circuit Court Division 1 on April 17.

Jeremy Scott Cissell and his attorney, Gregory Simms, asked Judge Todd Spalding for a motion to suppress, which Spalding set for a hearing on June 13 at 1:00 p.m. Cissell has a pretrial conference set for June 12 at 9:00 a.m., and a jury trial scheduled for July 14 at 8:30 a.m.

Cissell, 43, of Springfield, is charged with two counts of first-degree sodomy, victim under 12 years of age, four counts of first-degree unlawful transaction with a minor illegal sex act, under 16 years of age, three counts of first-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, illegal controlled substance, under 18 years of age, three counts of first-degree sexual abuse, victim under 12 years of age, three counts of first-degree wanton endangerment, first-degree sodomy, and first-degree sexual abuse.

Cissell was arrested on Aug. 28, 2023, following an investigation by Kentucky State Police Post 15 in Columbia when KSP received a report of sexual abuse of a child. During the investigation, it was discovered that Cissell had engaged in inappropriate physical contact with a juvenile in Marion County when the victim was 9 years old. During the investigation, it was discovered that Megan Michelle Reed, 37, of Lebanon, aided Cissell during the incident. The two were indicted by a Marion Grand Jury.

He is incarcerated in the Marion County Detention Center on a \$500,000 cash bond.

Reed, who is also facing 17 charges, also appeared in court where her pretrial conference was

set for June 12 at 9:00 a.m. and jury trial scheduled for July 14 at 8:30 a.m. She is being represented by Joseph Stewart and, like Cissell, is incarcerated in the Marion County Detention Center on a \$500,000 cash bond.

• Roger Cobb, who is charged with 10 counts of distribution of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor under 12 years of age, pleaded not guilty and had a pretrial conference set for June 26 at 9:00 a.m., and a jury trial scheduled for Sept. 22 at 8:30 a.m. Judge Spalding ruled that the bond of \$20,000 would remain the same.

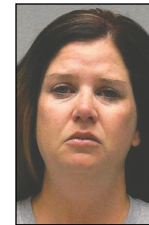
• Franklin Otoniel Caal-Garcia, who is charged with two counts of vehicular homicide when under the influence of alcohol, theft of identity of another without consent, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol .08, first offense (aggravated circumstance), careless driving, and failure to produce an insurance

card, had a pretrial conference set for May 22 at 9:00 a.m. and a jury trial scheduled for June 30 at 8:30 a.m.

On Nov. 2, troopers with KSP Post 15 responded to a two-vehicle collision on US 68 near the intersection of Jessietown Road. A 2005 Dodge Ram, driven by Garcia, crossed the centerline, entered the eastbound lane (he was traveling west), and dropped off the roadway. According to KSP, Garcia steered his vehicle back into the eastbound lane and collided head-on with a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox driven by Roy Wright, 75, of Lebanon. A passenger, Wright's wife, Deborah Wright, 72, was pronounced dead at the scene, while Roy Wright died later at the University of Kentucky hospital. At the time,



Jeremy Cissell



Megan Michelle Reed

SEE CISELL/PAGE A4



CLASSIFIEDS  
FAITH  
OBITUARIES

### INDEX

B4 PUBLIC RECORD  
A7 SPORTS  
A5

A2  
B1-2

### GET SOCIAL

FIND US  
ONLINE:



**Taylor Regional Hospital**  
**Da Vinci 5 Robotic Surgical Team**

www.trhosp.org | 1700 Old Lebanon Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718 | (270) 789-3561

**GENERAL SURGERY**  
**DR. JAMES WATKINS**  
**DR. JAMES BERGIN**  
**DR. MICHAEL BAHR**

- Appendix Removal
- Gallbladder Removal
- Colon Resection
- Diagnostic Procedures
- Hernia Repairs of All Types
- Reflux Surgery

Call (270) 465-2821 to schedule an appointment

**WOMEN'S HEALTH**  
**DR. KIM FRAZIER**

- Hysterectomy
- Tubal Ligation
- Diagnostic Laparoscopies
- Endometriosis
- Ovarian Cysts
- Pelvic Pain

Call (270) 465-3568 to schedule an appointment

**UROLOGY**  
**DR. MEREDITH ANGEL**  
**DR. BEN ANGEL**

- Cancer & Reconstructive
- Surgeries of the
- Bladder
- Kidney
- Ureter
- Prostate

Call (270) 789-2445 to schedule an appointment