



**SPORTS**  
TAYLOR SHUTS  
OUT KNIGHTS  
IN DISTRICT  
BASEBALL  
OPENER

Page B1

# The Lebanon Enterprise

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025 • \$2 • VOL. 140, NO. 5

## Brown-Graves, Bell appear in Marion Circuit Court

**BY DENIS HOUSE**  
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The two men charged with the murder of Kaitlyn Marie Wise appeared before Judge Todd Spalding in Marion Circuit Court Division 1 on May 22.

Dailin Marquez Brown-Graves and Steven Lamont Bell are both charged with the Feb. 13, 2023, murder of Wise. In the case against Brown-Graves, the deposition of Tina Graves will occur at 10:00 a.m. on Aug. 28, with the pretrial conference also occurring on that day and time. His jury trial is scheduled for Aug. 24, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. He is charged with murder, first-degree burglary-force

entry-residence, first-degree robbery-residence-gun, two counts of first-degree wanton endangerment, and second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument. He is lodged in the Marion County Detention Center on a \$5 million cash bond.

Bell has a pretrial conference set for Aug. 28 at 10:00 a.m. He will be transported that day for the hearing, and a jury trial scheduled for Aug. 24, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. He is charged with murder, first-degree burglary-forced entry-residence, first-degree robbery-residence-gun, and

two counts of first-degree wanton endangerment. He is lodged in the Taylor County Detention Center on a \$1 million cash bond.

Wise, 29, was found deceased inside a residence on Harrison Street around 11:44 p.m. on Feb. 13. When Kentucky State Police troopers and detectives arrived on the scene, they found Wise had suffered fatal injuries from apparent gunshot wounds.

Brown-Graves was arrested on May 12, 2024, while Bell was

arrested on Aug. 6.

The man charged following an auto accident that claimed the lives of two Marion County residents also appeared in court.

Franklin Otoniel Caal-Garcia is facing charges of vehicular homicide when under the influence of alcohol (two counts), identity theft, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol .08, first offense (aggravated circumstance), careless driving, and failure to produce an insurance card. He has a pretrial conference set for June 12 at 9:00 a.m. and a jury trial scheduled for June 30

at 8:30 a.m. The accident reconstruction report will not be completed by the Kentucky State Police until May 30.

On Nov. 2, 2024, Caal-Garcia was driving west on US 68 in a 2005 Dodge Ram when he crossed the centerline of the roadway, entered the eastbound lane, dropped off the roadway, then steered his vehicle back into the eastbound lane and collided head-on with a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox, driven by Roy Wright, 75, who passed away later at the University of Kentucky Hospital. A passenger in Wright's vehicle, his wife, Deborah Wright, 72, was

SEE BELL/PAGE A4



Steven  
Lamont  
Bell



Dailin  
Marquez  
Brown-Graves

## Sisters gather weekly to share concerns



JANE REID KLEYN/The Lebanon Enterprise

The Sisters of Loretto/Loretto Community visit downtown Lebanon weekly with signs in hand to protest and show their concern for our country and its leaders.

## School Board talks strategic planning, approves tentative budget

**BY DENIS HOUSE**  
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The Marion County School Board wants students and their families to be aware of the opportunities available to them.

With that in mind, the board discussed its strategic planning at a special called meeting on May 19.

“We want to make sure that students and families are aware of all that is available to them whether it’s student employment opportunities through the district, online

resources to explore careers, or providing career advising,” Superintendent Chris Brady said. “We already have a host of opportunities in place, but we want to focus on making sure our families are aware of these opportunities.” He added that communication and parent engagement was a large piece of the board’s discussion, including ensuring families were familiar with other initiatives throughout the district such as the investments the district has made related to school safety.

“Based on our discussion,

we could also explore initiatives we’ve had in place in the past to see if they could be brought back and refined,” Brady said “One specific example would be what the district called ‘Bump Up Day’ where students at transitional grade levels would get to visit the school they would attend the next year while our seniors visited local businesses and industries.”

Brady said it’s likely that more school-specific presentations will be made at Board of Education meetings as opposed to strictly district-

level information.

“Not long ago, we worked with the Southern Regional Education Board which conducted a parent survey related to strategic planning,” he said. “As we discussed during our meeting, overall, those survey results were very favorable in terms of how our families view Marion County Public Schools. That tells me this district is heading in a good direction and we want to make sure that continues by keeping our

SEE SCHOOL/PAGE A2

## Adams sentenced to 7 years on drug charges

**BY DENIS HOUSE**  
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A man charged with trafficking and possession of a firearm was sentenced by Judge Kaelin Reed in Marion Circuit Court Division 2 on May 22.

Javen Adams was sentenced to 7 years each on the charges of attempted trafficking in a controlled substance, second offense (carfentanil or fentanyl derivatives), first-degree attempted trafficking in cocaine, second or greater offense, attempted trafficking in heroin, second or greater offense, enhancement trafficking in marijuana-less than 8 ounces-second or greater offense, and 5 years for a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

• Jennifer Bartley pleaded not guilty to trafficking in a controlled substance,

second offense (carfentanil or fentanyl derivatives), first-degree trafficking in methamphetamine, second or greater offense, trafficking in marijuana-less than 8 ounces-second or greater offense, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, and controlled substance prescription not in original container, first offense. She has a pretrial conference set for July 24 at 1:00 p.m. and a jury trial scheduled for Sept. 9 at 8:30 a.m.

• Larvana Boblitt is scheduled to enter a plea on July 24 at 1:00 p.m. Boblitt is charged with first-degree possession of methamphetamine, first offense, drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, and possession of marijuana.

• Brandon Keith Brady had a motion hour, during which the motion to suspend

SEE ADAMS/PAGE A4

## LPD working theft, criminal mischief cases

**BY DENIS HOUSE**  
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The Lebanon Police Department is working cases involving two thefts and a criminal mischief case at Marion County High School.

On May 20, Marion County High School reported damage to a building/property in the estimated amount of \$2,000 when a suspect(s) spray-painted on the back of the building, along with some benches and glass doors. There was also ketchup, eggs, and syrup strewn around the area.

Officer Jim Smith is in charge of the investigation.

Also on May 20, Shane R. Padgett, of Waynesburg, reported that his 2006 Chevrolet Impala, valued at \$3,000, had been stolen from 653 Bruce Street on May 19. Alysia H. Padgett reported that on May 19, a woman’s Dooney & Burke wallet and its contents, valued at \$90, were inside of the stolen vehicle.

The vehicle was recovered on May 20 at the intersection of Bruce Street and Rolling Avenue, but the wallet was missing.

Officer Dylan Bright is investigating.



### INDEX

CLASSIFIEDS	B4	PUBLIC RECORD	A2
FAITH	A5	SPORTS	B1, B3
OBITUARIES	A2		

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