

March indictments include assault and sexual abuse

By Madison Nantz
Staff Writer

The March 21 return of indictments by the Laurel County Grand Jury included violent acts such as assault and sexual abuse.

Topping the list is an indictment against a man accused of assaulting law enforcement.

Jackie Nathaniel Bowling, 29, of Whitley Street in London, has been charged on five counts, all of which took place on or about Nov. 10, 2024. The first count is third-degree assault for biting London Police Officer Jordan Childers on the arm.

The second charges Bowling with menacing, by “intentionally placing another person in reasonable apprehension of imminent physical injury.” The third is for third-degree terroristic threatening, as the indictment states Bowling threatened to kill or seriously injure LPD Sergeant Dylan Messer.

Count four charges that Bowling resisted arrest by preventing or attempting to prevent Officers Childers and Messer from arresting him. The fifth and final count charges that Bowling is a second-degree persistent felony offender.

Additional violence-related cases are as follows:

— Thomas Douglas Scott, 57, of Chapel Road in East Bernstadt, was indicted for committing the offense of first-degree sexual abuse by subjecting a 15-year-old to sexual contact. The indictment states that the offense took place on or about August 1 through 2 of 2024.

— Cameron Shane Jackson, 24, of Caudill Lane in London, was indicted on two counts. The first charges that Jackson committed first-degree strangulation by “impeding the normal breathing or circulation of blood” of a woman, by “using his hands to apply pressure on the throat” of her.

Jackson also faces a charge of intimidating a participant in the legal process by using or threatening to use physical force against a “witness of the defendant believed to be a participant in a legal process,” in an attempt to “influence her testimony.”

An indictment is an accusation only and does not imply guilt or innocence. A person is presumed innocent until proven guilty.



PHOTO BY MADISON NANTZ

Laurel County Fiscal Court met Tuesday rather than Thursday, as several magistrates will be in Lexington attending a conference Thursday.

Fiscal Court approves sheriff's 2024 budget, excess fees

By Madison Nantz
Staff Writer

The Laurel County Fiscal Court approved an amendment to the 2024 budget and excess fees for Laurel County Sheriff John Root during this week's meeting.

The final settlement passed without discussion at Fiscal Court's special-called meeting Tuesday morning. Tuesday's meeting was held in place of the regular fiscal court meeting, as several magistrates must attend a conference in Lexington this Thursday.

Judge-Executive David Westerfield shared that the sheriff's approved excess fees amounted to \$29,000. Magistrate Richard Bales went on to thank Sheriff Root and the London-Laurel Rescue Squad for their recent rescue of a missing woman in the Keavy area.

The court also discussed a surplus list regarding road department equipment. Judge Westerfield requested that the magistrates permit him to advertise the equipment, which they did.

The following items were also approved:

— Resolution No. 2025-03, regarding a memorandum of understanding pertaining to Durango One, LLC, which is considering locating in London.

— An Agreement of Affiliation between Fiscal Court and Cumberland Valley Crime Stoppers, Inc. passed without discussion.

— Contracts with county fire departments regarding the Community Wildfire Defense Grant project passed. The county was successfully awarded the grant, of which some funds will go toward the local fire departments.

— The 2025 Laurel County Road Department Roadway Drainage Plan was adopted. Westerfield stated that, without approving the plan, it would be difficult for organizations such as FEMA to reimburse the county.

The meeting closed with approval of the treasurer's report, during which the cash transfer report showed that \$2,940 was transferred from the general fund to the jail fund. A transfer in the amount of \$500,000 was made from the occupational tax fund to general fund.

The Laurel County Fiscal Court regularly meets at 8:45 a.m. on the second Monday and 9:30 a.m. on the final Thursday of each month. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 14, at 8:45 a.m.



Home abandoned at 111 Flamingo Lane, London, KY 40741 will be auctioned off to the highest bidder on **April 7th, 2025 at 10am** to recover past due charges. Bids will be accepted in writing to neighborsoflondon@gmail.com or in person at the time of auction. Home is a 1995 Fleetwood Reflection 14x60. Arrangements must be made on the day of auction for residency application to be submitted for park approval and for payment.

For questions, please call 606-401-2325 or email neighborsoflondon@gmail.com

Woman accused in parental assault pleads guilty to wanton endangerment

By Madison Nantz
Staff Writer

A Laurel County woman must attend a dual diagnosis recovery program to avoid possible incarceration after allegedly attacking her parents in their home last August.

Heather Rachelle Manning, 51, of London, had previously entered a not guilty plea Oct. 15, in regard to the incident. Manning was indicted for second-degree assault, fourth-degree assault, two counts of first-degree wanton endangerment, and two counts of unlawful imprisonment.

After she pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree wanton endangerment, the Commonwealth recommended a five-year diversion for Manning as part of a plea agreement discussed in Laurel Circuit Court Thursday. The remaining counts were dismissed prior to sentencing, which will take place next month. Manning must successfully complete a Department of Corrections-approved, one-year dual diagnosis recovery program at Recovery Plus for Women as a condition of the agreement.

Manning's charges stem from an Aug. 25, 2024, incident that occurred around 11:04 p.m. when London Police officers responded to a 911 hangup call from the Heather Way home of late attorney Joe T. Roberts and his wife Judy W. Roberts — Manning's parents.

Upon arrival, LPD reported at the time, officers found Manning lying on the ground outside with a gunshot wound to the arm. They then found Mrs. Roberts lying on the floor inside with injuries due to an apparent assault by Manning. Both women were transported first to Saint Joseph London and later transferred to the University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington.

According to an arrest complaint written by LPD Capt. Ryan Jackson, Manning was intoxicated when she had threatened the couple with a shotgun, tore the landline from the wall, and injured Mr. Roberts' right hand as he had attempted to call for help.

Mr. Roberts, now deceased, ultimately shot his daughter after she allegedly threw Mrs. Roberts from the couch to the floor “because he feared that she was going to kill them,” according to police. The complaint indicated that Manning had held the Robertses against their will for about three hours prior to the shooting.

Laurel Circuit Judge Michael O. Caperton has scheduled Manning's sentencing for April 16, at 9 a.m.



HEATHER R. MANNING

Manchester man receives 5-year sentence in Laurel Circuit Court

By Madison Nantz
Staff Writer

A Manchester man indicted on nine counts after ramming Laurel County Sheriff's cruisers was sentenced to five years imprisonment in Laurel Circuit Court Monday.

Jeremy Glenn Owens, 44, of Muddy Gap Road in Manchester, was originally charged with first-degree fleeing or evading the police; two counts of first-degree wanton endangerment; receiving stolen property of the value of \$10,000 or more; first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine); operating a motor vehicle while under the influence (third offense); resisting arrest; speeding; and first-degree persistent felony offender.

Due to his guilty plea, Owens was sentenced to serve five years concurrently — the Commonwealth having recommended 5 years on count one, two, three, and four; 180 days on count six, and 30 days on count eight. Count nine was dismissed.

Owens had been among the November 2024 return of indictments after an Aug. 28, 2024, incident when Laurel County Sheriff's deputies first spotted Owens on Parker Road in London turning around in the middle of the roadway, apparently attempting to avoid a traffic safety checkpoint being conducted there by the Laurel County Drug Interdiction Task Force.

Task force members attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle and it failed to stop — traveling at a high rate of speed along County Farm Road, Pine Top Road, Powder Mill Road, Sinking Creek Road, and Hal Rogers Parkway.

Owens had slammed his brakes unnecessarily.

SEE SENTENCE, PAGE 11A

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