



## Son accused of murder to face jury

BY MARY JANE EPLING  
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

**GREENUP** A 20-year-old implicated in the murder of his mother last year plans to present the case to a jury, according to his attorney. Nearly one year after the discovery of 47-year-old Stacy L. Meenach inside of a burned car on Saw Pit Road in March 2023, Joshua Meenach was arrested and charged with murder, ar-

son, tampering with physical evidence and abuse of a corpse. Per previous reports and social media profiles associated with the Meenachs, Stacy appears to be Joshua's mother. On Thursday in Greenup County Circuit Court, Judge Brian McCloud began to call inmates one by one from the jury box where they each waited for their case to be called. Working his way down the line, McCloud addressed

Meenach. "You in the glasses, sir," McCloud said, pointing out Meenach who sat in the top row. Making his way to the podium, Meenach was joined by his public defender, Charles Oppenheimer, who was appointed to represent Meenach at last month's arraignment hearing. Oppenheimer previously entered a not guilty plea on Meen-

ach's behalf, a common occurrence in initial hearings to give a defendant the opportunity to negotiate plea arrangements and then change their plea later on. However, in Meenach's case, the topic of plea negotiations doesn't seem likely, as Oppenheimer said after speaking with Meenach, "I think we need to go ahead and set a trial date." Oppenheimer added due to the extensive amount of discovery, he'd need ample time

to review all of the evidence. As of now, McCloud scheduled Meenach to appear for a status hearing in August with a jury trial to commence on May 5, 2025. Meenach faces life in prison, if convicted. It is unclear at this time of writing if the prosecution will pursue the death penalty.

(606) 326-2652 | mjeppling@dailyindependent.com

## STUDENTS TOUR CITY OF ASHLAND

BY AUSTIN JOHNSON  
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

**ASHLAND** Oakview Elementary students hit the streets of downtown Ashland, touring various places Thursday. Elementary students began the journey around town in the morning at the riverfront where students met with the Southern Hills Garden Club, learning about planting flowers, according to city officials. The students trekked onward passing through Art Alley where city officials explained to the children that many of the murals were created by artists who reside in town. Students arrived on Winchester Avenue where they learned about the new crosswalks and pedestrian safety. The tour ended at the city building where students were selected to fill roles of the mayor, city manager and commissioners in a mock-style ordinance vote. The students had lunch in the commission chambers before boarding the bus.



PHOTOD BY AUSTIN JOHNSON | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT  
**ABOVE: A meeting is called to order by Samantha, center, who assumes the role of Ashland's mayor. LEFT: Two elementary students look at each other and giggle after being selected as Ashland city commissioners. BOTTOM: Oakview Elementary students smile for a picture inside the Ashland city commission chambers Thursday.**



## South Ashland Giovanni's under new leadership Blackburn Avenue dining room reopens to the public

BY AUSTIN JOHNSON  
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

**ASHLAND** The South Ashland Giovanni's has reopened the dining room doors after being shuttered for multiple years. Giovanni's at 2819 Blackburn Ave. had a grand reopening celebration Saturday, May 11, marking a new beginning for the new owners. Since COVID the doors have been closed to the public and didn't open back up until this year. The four owners are Amy Knipp, Kim Phillips, Matt and Alyssa Blevins. Matt Blevins, one of the four co-owners, said after replacing flooring, painting the walls and basic updates, the dining room is now open for business. "Since COVID, the dining room just completely stopped. We are just glad to be back part of the community. It's been absent for four years and we got a lot of people that used to do meetings here and class reunions," he said. "It's right in the heart of the community; it's right in the center of Ashland," Blevins added. The team of four owners came together through personal and work relationships. All shared a common goal of restoring a beloved pizza place in Ashland, Knipp said.

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## Massie has so far avoided fallout in Kentucky

**FRANKFORT** (AP) Republican Rep. Thomas Massie has made a habit of antagonizing Washington's most powerful leaders in his own party, but so far it hasn't eroded his support back home in his staunchly conservative Kentucky district. Four years ago, Massie drew

the wrath of then-President Donald Trump when the congressman singlehandedly caused a delay in passing a massive COVID-19 relief package. Trump called the Kentuckian a "third rate Grandstander" for his stalling tactic. The smackdown would have been a political death knell for

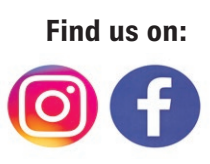
many GOP politicians, but for Massie it was a bump in the road as he cruised to reelection that year. This month, Massie joined a revolt against House Speaker Mike Johnson — a longshot effort overwhelmingly rejected by his colleagues. Yet Massie sounds unconcerned

about any fallout from his constituents for trying to oust the GOP House leader — nicknamed "MAGA Mike Johnson" by Trump. "It's a lot of inside baseball and ultimately, because he's still the speaker, I think a lot of people don't care," Massie said in a phone interview

Wednesday. Massie is being challenged by fellow Republicans Eric Deters and Michael McGinnis in Kentucky's primary election Tuesday. Three days of early, in-person voting started Thursday.

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