

Judge says bond won't budge unless he was to increase it

BY MARY JANE EPLING
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

GREENUP Greenup County Circuit Judge Brian McCloud made a quick bond decision after viewing photographs of a victim involved in a domestic violence assault on Thursday.

David Parker, 50, was booked into the Greenup County Jail Feb. 24 on charges of second-degree domestic violence assault and unlawful imprisonment with a persistent felony offender enhancer.

Parker's attorney, Charles Oppenheimer, said although the defense was still waiting on surveillance video, a trial date would need to be scheduled.

In response to the

trial request, McCloud scheduled Parker for another pre-trial conference on July 25 with a trial to follow in August.

Before Parker was led away, he appeared to remind Oppenheimer of an outstanding issue, as Oppenheimer inquired about Parker's current bond.

As courtroom personnel confirmed Parker is held on \$20,000 cash, Oppenheimer asked Parker if he had a place to go if he was to be released or if he had someone to sign him out.

Upon Oppenheimer's request to reduce the bond, he added the court could impose a condition that ensured Parker would have no con-

tact with the alleged victim.

During the exchange, Judge McCloud flipped through a file containing photos of the injuries sustained, allegedly at the hands of Parker, to which the judge muttered "my God."

"Just saw the pictures of the lady you beat up, so, no," McCloud responded. "If we had a formal hearing it'd probably be higher."

Per Kentucky's criminal statutes, second-degree assault, a class C felony, includes the intentional serious physical injury to another person.

Under the assault statute in which Parker is charged, second-degree as-

sault could also include causing those injuries by use of a deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument.

In addition to assault, which carries a possible punishment of five to 10 years in prison, Parker is also charged with first-degree unlawful imprisonment, a class D felony, which could include an initial maximum punishment of up to five years in prison, if convicted.

Within Parker's indictment, he is also charged as a persistent felony offender, meaning his possible sentence could be enhanced further.

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

Cocaine trafficker sentenced to 12 years

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG An Ashland man in his late 30s pleaded guilty Thursday in Boyd County Circuit Court to trafficking cocaine, possessing a handgun as a convicted felon and having drug paraphernalia.

Judge John Vincent sentenced Christopher Williams, 38, to 12 years in jail.

Williams, who appeared

via video conference from Western Regional in Boursville, West Virginia, was initially charged with trafficking fentanyl and an additional count of handgun possession as a convicted felon. The Commonwealth dismissed those charges after labs revealed the drug Williams dealt was solely cocaine — greater than 4 grams of the substance. The prosecution, per law, had to decrease the gun possession charges from

two to one.

Williams admitted to the crimes, which occurred in May 2023. Vincent informed him he could've been sentenced for up to 10 years on the charges of trafficking cocaine and possessing the firearm. Williams was sentenced to six years on each of those counts, with the terms running consecutively.

(606) 326-2664 | asnyder@dailyindependent.com

Shooting suspect has trial date

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

CATLETTSBURG An 18-year-old attempted murder suspect has a trial date on the cal-

endar. Mediation was unsuccessful recently in the case of Malackhi D. Mullins, of Ashland, who has been charged with attempt-

ed murder and wanton endangerment. Mullins is suspected of pulling the trigger in the August 2023 shooting of a young male in the Belmont Street 2000 block vicinity.

Boyd County Circuit Judge John Vincent offered late-summer dates in August and September, and then October. Ultimately, he and Alea Hipes, Mullins's public defender, agreed on a Nov. 12 trial date. Hipes favored scheduling

it further out "to play it safe," she said.

Mullins, who is a Boyd County Detention Center inmate, is set to appear via videoconference in

circuit court again on July 18 for a pre-trial conference.

According to Ashland Police Department, Mullins turned himself in to authorities following a two-day manhunt in August 2023.

Kaitelynn J. Kackley, 20, also remains jailed stemming from the same incident. Police said Kackley fled the scene of the shooting with Mullins. She has been indicted on the charge of facilitation to commit attempted murder.

(606) 326-2664 | asnyder@dailyindependent.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
CABELL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, ex rel.,
Julie Spence, Social Service Manager,**

Petitioner,

**v. Civil Action No. 24-JA-58
JUDGE GREGORY L. HOWARD, JR.**

**CHELSIE FRALEY, Respondent Mother;
ROBERT SCALES, Respondent Father;
CHRISTY TRIGG, Guardian, and
CHRISTOPHER FURLEY**

Respondents.

**IN THE INTEREST OF THE MINOR CHILD:
Christopher Fraley, DOB: 07/16/2015; 24-JA-58**

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Please take notice that this matter will come on for preliminary adjudication and/or termination of parental rights of the above listed parties and any unknown putative fathers or any other appropriate relief before the Honorable Gregory L. Howard, Jr., of the Circuit Court of Cabell County, West Virginia, on the **June 18, 2024 at 2:45 p.m.**, at which time and place you may be present to protect your interests, if you so desire. You are further advised that the minor child and respondents in this proceeding shall have the right to counsel at this hearing and every stage of proceeding; if you cannot pay for the services of counsel, the Court shall appoint counsel for you; and said proceeding can result in permanent termination of parental rights.

You are further advised that if an answer or appearance is not made by you at said hearing, thereafter, judgment upon proper hearing and trial may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the petition, i.e. permanent termination of parental, custodial, or guardianship rights. An original and copies of the petition has been filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Cabell County, West Virginia, at the Cabell County Courthouse, and a copy of said petition is available for each respondent at the Prosecuting Attorney's Office upon request. You may also contact the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to obtain the name of the attorney appointed to represent you.

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
By Counsel,



Kent L. Bryson, WVSB No. 7274
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Cabell County Courthouse
750 Fifth Ave., Suite 350
Huntington, West Virginia 25701
Counsel for Petitioner

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Richard Walje, 53 John Street, Vanceburg, KY 41179 has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to insert material to be deposited above high water mark on Ohio River to help slow bank erosion. The property is located at 162 W. 2nd Street, Vanceburg, KY, near AA Highway.

Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov.

Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

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HOW TO REACH US

Daily Independent

224 17th St.
Ashland, KY 41101-7606

ONLINE:
dailyindependent.com

Business hours:
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays

Phone:
(606) 326-2600
(800) 955-5860

Advertising:
(606) 326-2622
kharper@dailyindependent.com

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Which Medicare plans cover emergency medical care overseas?

Hi Toni:
I met with you in 2023 for a Toni Says personalized Medicare consultation. I have a quick question regarding travel outside the United States because I'm planning a trip to Italy in September. Which Medicare plans cover emergency medical costs while traveling overseas?

I received Medicare advice from my travel agent that has me very confused. I was informed that some Medicare plans, such as Plan F, give foreign travel medical coverage, but others including Plan G (which I am enrolled in), do not. Is this true?

— Laura from Dallas

Hello Laura:

The advice that you were given is not accurate.

Medicare does not cover emergency medical care during foreign travel. It is an added benefit that a Medicare Supplement Plan (Medigap) covers.

Medicare Supplement Plans F and G (as well as C, D, M and N) will all cover the same limited amount of emergency foreign travel. These plans pay for emergency care during the first 60 days of a trip outside of the United States. There is a \$250 deductible, and the Medicare Supplement plan "only" pays 80%, up to a lifetime maximum benefit of \$50,000. You pay 20% and any amounts over the \$50,000 lifetime maximum.

Who knows what an air ambulance anywhere overseas will cost? Laura, discuss with your travel agent or explore online for true travelers' insurance that will take care of any medical needs while traveling in countries worldwide.

But beware, because not all travel insurance plans include medical coverage. It's important to read the plan's conditions and restrictions before purchasing the travel insurance policy.

Another important note: Original Medicare and Medicare Part D plans take care of medical and prescription drug expenses in the United States only. So be sure you bring enough of your prescription medication while you are overseas, or you will have to pay out-of-pocket.

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There are, however, new Medicare Advantage (Part C) plans which pay for medical expenses overseas. Be sure that you are covered with that specific MA plan in case you have a medical event with foreign travel overseas. Call the MA plan to verify how to receive emergency medical benefits when out of the United States, because coverage and rules vary depending on which MA plan is selected.

Readers, do not forget there is a Medicare rule that one cannot be enrolled in Original Medicare with a Supplement and a Medicare Advantage plan at the same time.

Laura, the travel agent you were speaking with is also unaware that

plan F is no longer available for those enrolling in Medicare Part A as of Jan. 1, 2020. (Chapter 3 of the Medicare Survival Guide discusses the rules of enrolling in a Medicare Supplement plan.) Anyone currently enrolled in a Medicare Supplement Plan F who wants to change to a Plan G or N, which has lower premiums but higher out-of-pocket costs, will have to answer medical underwriting questions to qualify for that specific plan.

The differences between Medicare Supplement Plan G and Plan N are:

- Plan G offers lower premiums and the same Medicare benefits as Plan F except the Medicare Part B deductible is not covered and will be paid for by the enrolled Medicare beneficiary. The Part B deductible for 2024 is \$240, which is Plan G's out-of-pocket.

- Plan N generally has a lower premium than Plan G with higher out-of-pocket costs. There is a \$20 co-pay for a doctor's visit and a \$50 co-pay for the emergency room. The Part B deductible is also not covered, and the Part B "excess charges" are not paid for by the insurance company (which Plan G covers).

Laura, this is not the first time that someone has contacted the Toni Says Medicare team because of inaccurate Medicare information. Readers, always check your coverage before traveling overseas.

TONI KING is an author and columnist on Medicare and health insurance issues. She has spent nearly 30 years as a top sales leader in the field. If you have a Medicare question, email info@tonisays.com or call 832-519-8664. The "Medicare Survival Guide Advanced" edition and her new "Confused about Medicare" video series are available at www.tonisays.com.



TONI KING