

Morehead double homicide suspect in jail on \$1M bond

STAFF REPORT

MOREHEAD A Morehead man is accused of murdering a woman and her daughter on Sept. 19. Joshua Cottrell, 44, is facing charges stemming from a double homicide last week. He is the suspect in the deaths of Kayla D. Blake, 37,

and Kennedi McWhorter, 13, both of Morehead, according to Kentucky State Police and multiple media outlets. On the morning of Friday, Sept. 19, the Rowan County Sheriff's Office responded to a welfare check at a South Spring Street residence. They discovered two deceased victims. According to court records,

the victims were located across the hall from each other. According to KSP, evidence indicated the suspect had moved the bodies. Cottrell was eventually found at a Paducah hospital, where KSP said he had blood on his clothes. Based on court records, Cottrell has a violent criminal history. In 2003, he was con-

victed of the murder of Richie Phillips of Rineyville. Court records show Cottrell put Phillips's body in a suitcase and threw it into a lake. After his charges were amended to second-degree manslaughter, Cottrell was sentenced to 20 years for that crime. Funeral services for Kayla Blake and Kennedi McWhort-

er are scheduled for Saturday at 9 a.m. at Malone Funeral Home in Grayson. Visitation is today from 6-9 p.m. Cottrell is in the Montgomery County Jail, according to the Mount Sterling Advocate, on a \$1 million cash bond. He is scheduled for a court appearance on Monday morning.



MATT JONES | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

POWERING UP FOR THE SIXTH TIME

Kentucky Power employees are seen behind a collection table for Power Up the Pantry outside of their office on the corner of 17th Street and Winchester Avenue on Thursday. The program, in its sixth year, helps those experiencing food insecurities in the region. The event had four locations this year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pancake breakfast Saturday

ASHLAND The Ashland Masonic Temple will have an all-you-can-eat breakfast at 7 a.m. Saturday. Cost is \$10; children 5 and younger will eat free with a paying adult. The temple is at 1500 Central Ave.

MU clinic to offer free screenings

HUNTINGTON The Marshall University Psychology Clinic will participate in National Depression Screening

Day next week by offering free depression screenings to students, faculty, staff and community members. Screenings will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday in Harris Hall, Room 449, 1745 3rd Ave. Participants will complete a brief survey followed by a one-on-one review of their responses with a doctoral

student in psychology. While the screening is not a formal diagnosis, it is designed to help individuals who may be experiencing symptoms of depression take the first step toward seeking professional support. An estimated 40 million adults in the United States are affected by anxiety or depression. National Depression Screening Day, observed

annually in October, aims to raise awareness and encourage individuals to seek help when needed. For more information, call (304) 696-2772.

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*Kentucky State Study 2023; conducted by Coda Ventures