

# COMMUNITY

## Paris, Ky. man charged with two counts Criminal Mischief, 1st Degree

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Devin Watkins, 28, of Curtis Street, Paris, Ky., was arrested on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, by Paris Police Officer E. Hatter, and has been charged with two counts of Criminal Mischief, 1st Degree.

According to the Uniform Citation, on Sept. 14, 2025, a van was located near a pole on Cane Ridge Road that was missing the cables for AT&T. Inside said van cut black cables, that matched the items AT&T were located. AT&T contacted the Bourbon County Sheriff's Office.

A male subject was seen on a bicycle and was located and detained, which led to the subject being mirandized and a

statement was completed that detailed Devin Watkins and Jeramie Roe had cut the two cables on Cane Ridge Road and placed them inside the van that night.

Watkins also stated he was involved in the cutting of the line on Pleasant Street as well, and that he did not take the cable, but was there when it was cut. He also stated the cut cable was brought to him, and he would take it to Winchester as scrap.

Watkins stated he did the cutting to make money due to a job loss and stated that he was the one that had the knowledge of the cables and phone line work, as he worked on them for a company and knew the knowledge about the infrastructure and that it could be used to make money.

Watkins was charged



Devin Watkins  
Photo courtesy of Bourbon County Detention Center

with Criminal Mischief – 1st Degree as the infrastructures were damaged in the process of the situation of cutting the line. He was also charged with Criminal Mischief, 1st Degree for the Pleasant Street cut, as well.

Devin Watkins was arrested and lodged in the Bourbon County Detention Center on two \$5,000.00 @ 10% blanket bonds for the two counts

of Criminal Mischief. He is scheduled to appear in Bourbon County District Court for preliminary hearings for the two counts of Criminal Mischief, 1st Degree on Friday, Sept. 26, 2025, at 11:00am.

All persons are considered innocent until proven guilty or pleading guilty in a court of law.

## NCMS 8th grade girls' basketball players recognized



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The NCMS 8th grade LadyJackets were recently recognized during their last home game on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, against Mason County.

Congrats to 8th graders Zoey Garrett, Gema Murrell, Sidney Sexton, Alayna Nelson, Calie Linville, and Bristol

Caswell.

These very talented young ladies show that the future of Nicholas County Girls Basketball will be going strong for years to come.

The 6th grade LadyJackets ended up losing to the LadyRoyals, 27-6; while the 7th grade LadyJackets won, 64-12; and the 8th grade LadyJackets won as well, 64-24.

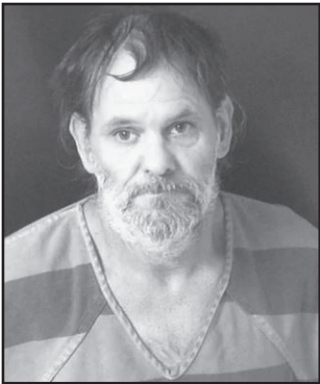
(photo courtesy of Ali-sha Dunn)

## Missing Brown County inmate, Jerry Cooper has been arrested

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During the early morning hours on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, the Mason County Sheriff's Office posted the following on their Facebook page, "Jerry Cooper has been arrested. Our investigation indicates Cooper remained in Mason County, where we believed him to be, until today when Marlana and William Strausbaugh picked him up and took him to Louisville. Once we found his location there, a team from the FBI apprehended him.

The Mason County Sheriff's Office has arrested Marlana Strausbaugh and William Strausbaugh of Mason County for Hindering Prosecution or Apprehension 2nd Degree and Escape 2nd Degree (Complicity). They may also face other federal charges.



Jerry Lee Cooper  
Photo courtesy of Brown County Detention Center

We want to thank the FBI, Kentucky State Police, Maysville Police Department, KY Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Lewis County Sheriff's Office, Bracken County Sheriff's Office, Boone County Sheriff's Office, Fleming County Sheriff's Office, Campbell County Sheriff's Office, Augusta Police Department, Brooksville Police Department, USMS, Brown County Sheriff's Office, Maysville Fire Department, Dover Fire

Department, Maysville/Mason County Dispatch, MCDC, and many other agencies for their assistance.

We especially want to thank EM Director Tony Liess, Constable Joe Collins, and the entire Pumpelly Family for putting in many many hours behind the scenes, along with all the citizens and organizations who donated equipment and food.

Finally, we want to thank the spouses of the first responders involved in this case for holding the line at home."

Jerry Lee Cooper was wanted for escaping from the Brown County Detention Center in Georgetown, Ohio, on September 15, 2025. At the time, Cooper was being held while he awaited

trial for his alleged role in a murder-for-hire. On September 15, 2025, Cooper, and an accomplice, Roy Gene Butler, who was later apprehended, broke through a window in the Detention Center, went to the Ohio River, stole a boat, and travelled to Dover, Kentucky.

On September 16, 2025, Jerry Lee Cooper was charged with Escape in the Brown County Municipal Court, State of Ohio, and a state warrant was issued for his arrest.

The FBI offered up a reward of up to \$10,000.00 for information leading to the arrest of Jerry Lee Cooper, who was considered armed and dangerous.

## Nicholas County Fiscal Court holds special-called meeting

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Members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, along with Judge-Exec. Steve Hamilton and County Attorney Dawn Letcher, met on Monday, Sept. 22, 2025, at 4:00pm, at the Nicholas County Courthouse, for a special-called meeting.

Judge-Exec. Hamilton called the meeting to order, with all magistrates present.

The court approved a resolution for a KACo (Kentucky Association of Counties) lease agreement for financing for the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado with plow, to be used by the Nicholas County Road Department, and not

to exceed a principle of \$92,000.00.

The court then went into closed session, and resumed a short time later, with no action taken while in closed session.

The court approved to acknowledge receipt and evaluation of the Ritchie Road settlement offer from East Ky Power Co-Op and to accept the settlement, as presented.

The court also approved to advertise for bids for the Ritchie Road resurface project for milling, paving, and shouldering work. Judge-Exec. Hamilton hopes that the bids can be opened around the first full week of October, and that the project could possibly be completed this fall.

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

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#### NOTICE

Please take notice that the Nicholas County Fiscal Court is soliciting sealed bids for a milling, paving and shouldering project on Ritchie Road (CR # 1325)-mile markers 5.59-1.173, pursuant to specifications on file with the Nicholas County Judge Executive (reference contact information below). Sealed bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at the Office of Steve Hamilton, Nicholas County Judge Executive, 125 East Main Street, Carlisle, Kentucky. Phone (859) 289-3725. Bids will be opened at a special, called meeting of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., at the Nicholas County Courthouse, Fiscal Courtroom, 125 E. Main Street, Carlisle, Kentucky.

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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### FOR SALE

CASH for your unwanted car or truck. We can pick-up. Call Stephen at 606-584-8881 or Mason County Auto Sales Buy/Here 606-883-3340 4694 AA Highway, Dover, KY 41034

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#### COUNTY TAXPAYER'S NOTICE

The Nicholas County Sheriff's Office will be accepting payment for the 2025 property tax bills beginning October 1, 2025. If you do not receive your bill within the next few weeks, please contact the Sheriff's Office at 859-289-3740. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The Nicholas County Sheriff's Office will be CLOSED in observance of the following holidays: November 11 for Veterans Day, November 27-28 for Thanksgiving, December 24-25 for Christmas, December 31, 2025 and January 1, 2026 for New Years.

Collection Dates	
2% Discount	Oct. 1, 2025 - Nov. 1, 2025
Face Amount	Nov 2, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025
5% Penalty	Jan. 1, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2026
21% Penalty	Feb. 1, 2026* - April 15, 2026

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

All delinquent tax bills will be transferred to the County Clerk's Office at the close of business on April 15, 2026. \*Payments made during the 10% penalty period are subject to an additional 10% sheriff's fee. In addition to the penalties and fees that are applied by the Sheriff's Office all payments made in the County Clerk's Office are subject to a 20% County Attorney's Fee, a 10% County Clerk's Fee and interest at 1% per month. The delinquency is also subject to being sold to a Third Party in the summer of 2026.

When mailing payments include bill number on your check or money order to insure proper credit. If you wish a paid receipt returned to you, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Make checks payable to:  
Nicholas County Sheriff

Mailing address:  
Nicholas County Sheriff  
125 E Main Street  
Carlisle, KY 40311

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# 82%

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**KPA**

\*Kentucky State Study 2023; conducted by Coda Ventures