

# Rogers' family speaks at sentencing hearing

‘Your silence took my sister’s life, and my dad’s’

BY PETER W. ZUBATY  
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Steve Lawson returned to court last Wednesday for his final sentencing, and it also gave members of the Ballard family a chance to confront Lawson during victim impact statements.

Brooke Bryan, Rogers' sister, was one of two family members to address Lawson, along with Mike Ballard, Rogers' uncle and the brother of the late Tommy Ballard, who was shot and killed in 2016. Bryan said all Lawson had to do was go to the police, since he knew in advance that Houck wanted Rogers killed. Lawson's inaction, she said, led to her sister and father being murdered.

"Steve, you could have stopped this — you could have saved her life," Bryan said. "You knew what was happening ... your silence took my sister's life, and my dad's."

Lawson was convicted in late May of tampering with evidence in the 2015 disappearance of Crystal Rogers, and of conspiring with his son, Joseph Lawson, and Brooks Houck, Rogers' ex-boyfriend, to kill Rogers. Nelson Circuit Judge Charles Simms III



PETER W. ZUBATY/  
Paxton Media Group

**Mike Ballard addresses Steve Lawson during Lawson's sentencing hearing Wednesday in Nelson Circuit Court. Lawson was sentenced to 17 years in prison for tampering with evidence and conspiracy to the 2015 murder of Crystal Rogers.**

ultimately went with the recommendation of a Warren County jury and handed down a 17-year sentence. Lawson did not speak during the hearing.

Steve Lawson was tried separately from his son and Houck, back in May. Houck and Joseph Lawson also were found guilty of conspiracy to murder in July in Warren Circuit Court in Bowling Green. They are scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 21 in Nelson Circuit Court.

Before the victim impact



PETER W. ZUBATY/Paxton Media Group

**Members of the Ballard family watch as Steve Lawson is led out of the courtroom and into custody. Lawson was sentenced to 17 years in jail for conspiring to murder Crystal Rogers in 2015. Rogers' mother, Sherry Ballard, is pictured second from right.**

statements, Simms denied a motion by attorneys Zack Buckler and Darren Wolff — who are representing Steve Lawson — for a new trial or a directed verdict by Simms.

Following the procedural portion of the hearing, Mike Ballard took the stand to address Lawson in an emotional testimony.

"You've never met me, but I promise you will see me" at every parole hearing, he said. "We're all not here just for Crystal — we're here for you."

Ballard called Lawson a "worthless, pitiful, disgusting" human being, and wished him the worst while he serves his prison sentence. Ballard said he hopes Lawson never leaves prison.

"That's the life you chose," Ballard said.

Ballard said Rogers probably got up the morning of July 3, 2015, and planned out a day with her children — Rogers has five kids, including one with Houck — as well as a date night with Houck that never happened.

"She was unaware this would be the last day (her family) would ever hear her voice," Ballard said."

Ballard also noted that Lawson could have stopped all this before it unfolded, but instead he was more interested in getting drywall jobs from Houck, who has a home-building business. If Lawson had, Ballard's niece would still be alive, and so would his brother. Tommy Ballard led searches all over Nelson County in the year and change after Rogers' disappearance before he was gunned down while striking out on a hunting trip from his farm in November 2016.

"You could've prevented all of this from happening if you'd just gone to the police and done

the right thing," Mike Ballard said. "... I don't believe you're sorry about it. The only thing you're sorry about is you got caught and you're going to prison. ... She never deserved for her life to end as it did."

Ballard, much like Bryan, implored Lawson to reveal what happened to Rogers' body, which has never been found, leaving the Ballard family and Rogers' children still wondering.

"I hope and pray and wish you would find it in your heart to let them know where their mother is," Ballard said.

Bryan also questioned Lawson as to whether her sister's life was worth getting Houck's drywall jobs.

"I hope every day in prison reminds you of what you did," Bryan said. "You'll never take our memories ... we'll make sure the world never forgets who Crystal was."

Lawson has the right to appeal his conviction, and that appeal must be filed within 30 days of the hearing.

YOUR CUSTOMER  
JUST READ THIS AD.  
**ADVERTISE WITH US.**

## FORMER BOOKMOBILE FOR SALE Via Sealed Bidding

The Washington County Public Library in Springfield, Kentucky will be accepting sealed bids for our old bookmobile: 2008 Dodge Sprinter 3500 (Diesel engine) with 37,338 miles. SEALED BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM AUGUST 18TH THROUGH AUGUST 22ND. The bids will be opened at the library on August 22nd at 3:00 PM. Please contact the library's director, Shaun Whiteaker, at (859) 336-7655 or by email at [director@wcplky.org](mailto:director@wcplky.org) to arrange to see the van. We can email pictures to interested potential bidders. The library is located at 333 West Main St., Springfield, KY 40069.

## News-Journal CLASSIFIED DEADLINE

FRIDAY - 4:00 PM

Contact Customer Service at  
270-465-8111, Option 1 or  
[classifieds@cknj.com](mailto:classifieds@cknj.com)  
Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM

\*Holidays advance deadline by 24 hours.

## HOUSING

### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR:

- Campbellsville Public Housing
- Section 8

Federally subsidized, eligible applicants pay 30% of adjusted income

### Housing Counseling Available

For details call:

**(270) 465-3576**

or pickup application packet at  
400 Ingram Ave.



# CLASSIFIED ADS

PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

CALL TO PLACE YOUR AD IN PRINT AND ONLINE IN KENTUCKY

### 0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

**AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET.** If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-877-548-7494

**BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-770-0957

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920 Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-855-209-2951 or visit [dorranceinfo.com/Kentucky](http://dorranceinfo.com/Kentucky)

**CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES.** Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-6058

Choose EarthLink Fiber Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 1-833-974-4780

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-833-353-2982

**DENTAL INSURANCE** from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-900-7392 [www.dental50plus.com/26#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/26#6258)

**DIRECTV OVER INTERNET** - Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-888-340-6138

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-833-984-2146 today!



### 0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Frankfort Office Space for rent: Second floor with four large office areas, restroom. Office desks furnished. Located ½ mile from I-64 Lawrenceburg exit 53A. Electric, water, gas, utilities and internet included. \$2,200 per month. Call Bonnie Howard, Kentucky Press Association, 502-223-8821.

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-877-581-3053 today!

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 855-841-2894

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-633-4574

**GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS.** Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-485-3141.

**HOME BREAK-INS** take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 1-833-360-5407

Inflation is at 40 year highs. Interest rates are way up. Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Do you have \$10k or more in debt? Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF and find out how to pay off your debt for significantly less than what you owe! FREE quote: Call 1-844-262-5602

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 9/30/25.) Call 1-866-837-5986

**Elizabethtown LOOKING TO BUY FULL OLD BOTTLES OF BOURBON AND BOURBON SIGNS** Call 270-304-5062

**Fill Your Purse Through the Classifieds**

### 0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is the most advanced gutter protection for your home, backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-866-329-2415 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 20% off! Seniors and military save an additional 10%. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details

Omaha Steaks Wines. 12 world class wines (and bonus gifts) for ONLY \$79.99 (plus s/h.). Save \$160! 12 new wine selections plus a FREE \$25 Omaha Steaks E-reward card every three months. Cancel anytime. 100% guarantee! Call 1-844-740-5945 and mention code AGJF002 or visit [www.GetOSWine.com/sip169](http://www.GetOSWine.com/sip169)

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-982-0374

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-688-8576 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material — steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer — up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-306-0302

**Safe Step.** North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-888-302-4539

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-866-348-8793

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, hassles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-844-440-0399

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-888-287-5615

### 0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Buy Vintage Guitar's! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-7011

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-977-4979

**YOU MAY QUALIFY** for disability benefits if you have are between 52-63 years old and under a doctor's care for a health condition that prevents you from working for a year or more. Call now! 1-833-641-6772

### 0300 PETS

**BARDSTOWN- 2 adorable, Female, Shih Tzu puppies** that are ready for their forever home. (502)249-9122

### BONNIEVILLE- BEAGLES, BEAGLES, BEAGLES

Good Hunting stock and make great pets. pets, 4 mos old, to 1 year old. (502)727-2950 or (270)369-9992

Free 7 mo Border Collie Red & White full-blooded female, Very Friendly 502-507-9038



Miniature Cavapoo puppy, male 10 weeks old Hypoallergenic/ no shedding, & Partially housebroken. Great Family dog, Vet & Groomer references available. Shots, wormed health guarantee. Text or call and leave msg (812) 559-1506

**ST FRANCIS - \*FOR SALE\*** Two yr. old Male and 1 yr. old Female Rottweiler, Australian Shepherd, AKC Registered, Extremely Beautiful, Very Friendly, and Great Family Dogs! CALL or TXT (502)977-2647

### 0500 MERCHANDISE

**RADCLIFF- New Coats,** women's size medium \$35.00 firm. Call Pearl 209-446-1258

Owensboro - \*\*\*FOR SALE\*\*\* Gemeinhardt Flute Good Condition. \$200 Call 270-929-8771

### 0500 MERCHANDISE

**LOOKING TO BUY 4-wheelers, dirt bikes, mowers & zero turns, golf carts & tractors, trailers, UTV's and side by sides. Call or text 270-766-9940**

**CRESTWOOD CUB CADET HEAVY DUTY GARDEN TRACTOR MODEL GT 2544.** Good condition, runs and cuts well. Manuals, extra set of blades and pull behind cart, included. Photos available, call or text 502 619 1206 \$500.00.

**CRESTWOOD** Fujitsu Outdoor Condenser 1,5-ton, 18k BTU XLTH Ductless Minisplit for two zones. Two heads included. Uses R410A refrigerant, \$150.00

**CRESTWOOD** Jackson 8 cu ft. Poly Wheelbarrow. Good condition. \$50.00 Call or text 502 619 1206

### 0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

**Bardstown- 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH,** \$995/ month 502-293-0132.

Apartment/Duplex for Rent Adairville, KY \$400/month + Deposit Smoke-free Environment (270) 539-2043

**Shelbyville, KY 2 BEDROOM CONDO** 2 1/2 baths, garage, fireplace, stainless appliances. Brassfield Estates \$1,200/month I No Pets. 859-481-1333

**1 & 2 Bedroom Apts Bardstown Location** Call Sam Wheatley 502-507-1585

### 0700 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

3031 Beech Grv Rd Shepherdsville, KY 3BR-2B Euro Style 2-Story, 20 Min I65-S from downtown. Now \$199,000. XL patio, deck & shed. 100% reno w/ appl's. , homes.com. 502.599.6728

Land for sale. Located 7 miles from Bardstown on Terrapin lane. Tract 2A-2.63. Tract2B-2.66. Tract 2C-2.92 acres. Call 502-827-2814 for information. No texts.



**Looking for a new friend? Help a shelter pet find their forever home!**

