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GENERAL NEWS

BOUND

Continued from Page 1

history with Buffalo Trace." According to the testimony of the undercover detective, on the night of the transaction with Lopez, the cooperating witness met with an agent with the BTNTF, and with the agent driving, the cooperating witness placed several calls to Lopez at an attempt to purchase cocaine and marijuana.

Lopez was picked up by the agent and cooperating witness and taken to a location where Lopez took \$200 into a residence and returned with approximately one gram of suspected cocaine and one-half ounce of marijuana.

The undercover agent said the money had been photographed before the transaction and was later recovered during a search of the home.

We also had an audio recording device inside the car," the undercover detective said and added that the quality of the recording made it "a good tape," in his opinion. He also described Lopez as "a go between" who received little or no money for the service he provided of finding drugs for customers.

KSP detectives Brian Bowling and Brett Kirkland arrested Lopez following the transaction, according to testimony from the undercover agent.

A search warrant was issued and executed at the location where Lopez exchanged the money for the drugs, according to testimony.

The undercover detective said cocaine and marijuana was seized, but one of the inhabitants of the residence, whom the detective called Angie Sexton, was not charged at the time of arrest of Lopez and the execution of the search warrant.

Wittmeyer asked the detective several pointed questions regarding the tactics of using a cooperating witness and the delay of charging Sexton.

made by Sexton and other factors provided probable cause. The determining factor in the statements from Mrs. Sexton, Judge Delaney finally said and ordered the charges against Lopez bound over to the grand jury.

Wittmeyer asked for a reduction of Lopez's bond. "I'm asking for an unsecured bond," she said. Delaney consulted with

Letcher before agreeing to lower the bond from \$10,000 to \$5,000. Due to the upgrade in technical equipment in the main courtroom, the hearing was held in a side conference room usually used by juries during deliberations.

Lopez appeared in a blue jail uniform with his wrists and ankles secured by manacles during the hearing.

Kentucky State Police officials say they've not found the weapons used to kill Michael "Batman" Flora, 22, of Mt. Sterling, a man with many relatives in Nicholas County, but they do say they have the man who pulled the trigger and murdered Flora, and that man is now behind bars.

Kentucky State Police Detective Larry Bowling arrested Rick Lee Puryear, 36, of Jeffersonville, Jan. 31, and charged him with Fla's murder.

Puryear's body was found Jan. 20 alongside Ky. 15, just off of the Mountain Parkway in Powell County. KSP Morehead Post Information Officer, Trooper Ralph Lockard, said Flora had left his Jeffersonville home and entered a vehicle with Puryear.

They knew each other and we still do not know the extent of their friendship," Lockard said.

Lockard did not elaborate on the chance of their being another person in the vehicle when Flora was murdered but said investigators had not ruled out the possibility.

"It is possible," he said. Lockard said that he could neither confirm nor deny the rumor of a possible involvement of Puryear with a white supremacist organization, although he did confirm that KSP Morehead Post is not currently investigating any such white supremacist organizations in this region.

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Murder is charge



Photo by Charles Mattox

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