



# **KANAWHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION*

*301 VIRGINIA STREET EAST*

*CHARLESTON, WV. 25301*

*304-357-0169*

**Sheriff Michael Y. Rutherford**

**Chief Deputy Joseph H. Crawford**

## **NEWS / MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**June 25, 2024.**

**Contact:** Sergeant Joshua L. Lester

[joshualester@kcsso.us](mailto:joshualester@kcsso.us)

Phone: 304.357.0732 office

681.910.3649 cell

### **K-9 Makes First Major Apprehension**



**Clendenin-** A newer K-9 with the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office made its first major apprehension last Tuesday after a brief pursuit through the Town of Clendenin.

K-9 Jet and its handler Deputy J.L. Barbagallo were called to assist after Deputy T.S. Americo attempted to stop a stolen vehicle on June 18, 2024. The driver, Ronald Dewayne Sims, 44 of Beckley, WV, fled during a felony traffic stop where he led deputies on a high-speed pursuit through the Town of Clendenin. Sims eventually drove the stolen vehicle deliberately into the Elk River and fled towards the woods.

Deputy Barbagallo and K-9 Jet responded to the scene and began tracking Sims along the wood line near Route 4. Sims was eventually spotted walking along the riverbank and ignored multiple commands to stop and comply with deputies. K-9 Jet was released into action and apprehended Sims as he tried fleeing once again.

Mr. Sims was found to be a convicted felon with an extensive criminal history which included other escape attempts, fleeing, and charges consisting of extreme violence. When taken into custody, Mr. Sims had a handgun, ammunition, and nearly 100 grams of various



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illicit drugs. He was admitted to CAMC General Hospital for treatment of the animal bite but has since been released and charged with (1) fleeing from a law enforcement officer in a vehicle, showing reckless indifference to the safety of others; (2) prohibited person from possessing a firearm; (3) Receiving or transferring a stolen vehicle; (4) Manufacture or possess with intent to deliver a Schedule I or II narcotic or meth; (5) Manufacture, deliver, or possess with intent to deliver Schedule I, II, or III. Mr. Sims was arraigned in Kanawha County Magistrate Court and was remanded to South Central Regional Jail on a \$25,000 cash bond where he currently remains. Mr. Sims is scheduled for his first court appearance on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in Kanawha County Magistrate Court. As always, Mr. Sims is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

We commend and are proud of the great police work from K-9 Jet, Deputy Barbagallo, and our 2023 Deputy of the Year, Deputy Americo. They all have had extensive training to prepare them for incidents such as this, and their skills protected innocent citizens and multiple officers at the scene that day.



### **Sims, Ronald Dewayne**

44 years old

[photo courtesy of South-Central Regional Jail]



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