



# **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:**

**February 14, 2024.**

**Contact:** Sergeant Joshua L. Lester  
[joshualester@kcso.us](mailto:joshualester@kcso.us)  
Phone: 304.357.0732 office  
681.910.3649 cell

## **Wanton Endangerment**

**Clendenin, WV-** Deputies with the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office were on a standoff for more than three hours last night with a man who is accused of firing shots at utility workers on Wills Creek Road in Clendenin.

Deputies and West Virginia State Police Troopers responded to a residence in the 9000 block of Wills Creek Road after 911 operators took a call from a utility worker who stated his crew was working on fiber lines when they heard gunshots and believed the shots were being fired at them. The 911 call came in just after 7:00 p.m., and shots were continuously being fired for approximately 30 minutes.

When deputies arrived on the scene, they learned the suspect was Mr. Aaron Grindstaff, 31, of Clendenin. Grindstaff was accused of a similar act against utility workers back in 2021.

Deputies negotiated with Mr. Grindstaff for approximately 3 ½ hours as they tried to end the incident peacefully. At approximately 11:22 p.m., Mr. Grindstaff finally exited the rear of his residence and was taken into custody.

Approximately 19 firearms and a significant amount of ammunition were collected as evidence from the scene.

One deputy was injured during the incident and was taken to CAMC General Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and later released. We would like to give special thanks to the EMS Team (K174 and AS590) with Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority who stayed with officers during the standoff and quickly went into action, taking excellent care of our deputy.

Mr. Grindstaff was charged with one felony count of wanton endangerment with a firearm and was arraigned by a Kanawha County Magistrate this morning. He currently remains at South-Central Regional Jail on a \$200,000 bond.



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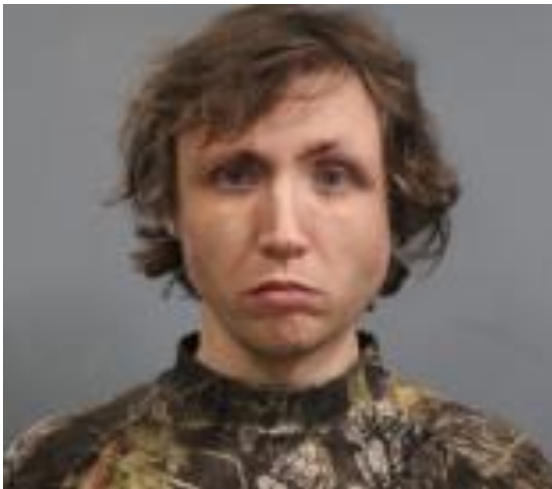
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**Grindstaff, Aaron A**

**31 years old.**

**(Photo courtesy of South-Central Regional Jail)**



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