

BELL' CON'T FROM PAGE 1

that he was sorry for his actions.

Prior to Sentencing, Sandberg admonished Bell for his response to questions as part of the pre-sentence investigation.

Bell stated that he had drank a beer with Clamato while at Buffalo Wild Wings at lunch that day and then drank another three or four beers while visiting with friends from Fordville for about three to four hours, at a rate of one beer per hour. Sandberg responded with his analysis.

"The police reports indicate that when you were finally in the jail at 8:30 p.m., you gave a blood alcohol level of .130. At 8:36, it was .128. Your statement indicates that you had not had a drink for at least an hour before the accident. And then I note your intoxilyzer blow was close to two hours after the accident, which by your statement means you hadn't had a drink for three hours and you were at .130 and its going down."

Sandberg calculated that Bell must have consumed much more alcohol than he admitted to before making the decision to drive home while impaired.

"Unless you metabolize alcohol at the slowest rate I've ever seen, you were likely a .16 or higher when you set off," he said.

Sandberg accused Bell of not being honest when he had a chance to tell the court his side of the story. "In this pre-sentence investigation, you are not being honest about how much are drinking. You are not being honest about how much you had to drink. You are not being honest about how intoxicated you were when you hit the road. This is your opportunity to be honest, this is your opportunity to show your accountability, and you don't want to talk about the alcohol," Sandberg told Bell.

He also inferred that Bell had been "somewhat remorseful" for his actions, but not enough for the severity of his crimes, in his opinion.

On the Class C felony count of Criminal Vehicular Injury to Nicole Louthain, Judge Theodore Sandberg sentenced Bell to the maximum of five years in prison allowed by law.

During the sentencing on Monday, Nicole Louthain audibly gasped and sobbed when Sandberg sentenced Bell to the maximum allowed by

law to the Class A felony count of Criminal Vehicular Homicide involving her daughter, Katarina.

As per the plea agreement, 14 years of that sentence was suspended, meaning Bell must serve six years behind bars.

Each count is to be served concurrently and Bell was also sentenced to three years of supervised probation and must complete two years of the 24/7 sobriety program, with credit given for time already served in the program. The sentence Sandberg handed out was the maximum set forth in a plea agreement between

the state and Bell's defense in January which called for three to six years of prison time, enrollment in the 24/7 sobriety program and three years of supervised probation following his release.

Sandberg agreed that the sentence he handed down was probably the maximum when compared with other cases of this type, but that it was meant to be a deterrent for those who contemplate drinking and driving in the future.

"The reason for DUI laws, is this case," he told the court.

One side of the courtroom was filled with relatives and supporters

of Bell. Sandberg noted that the court had received 46 letters of support for Bell from Fordville community members and family and friends and that he had read them all prior to sentencing.

He also offered that the support for Bell would be needed when he is released from prison.

Sandberg also acknowledged that the court received a total of 15 victim impact statements for the defense.

Bell was remanded to the custody of law enforcement immediately following the nearly three-hour long sentencing hearing

NOTICE
Due to Memorial Day on Monday May 25 - Residential and Commercial garbage pickup will be on Tuesday.



Table 94587: ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. Members Health Insurance Company. Total Assets 48370228, Total Liabilities 28707084.

Table 88595: ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. Emphysys Insurance Company. Total Assets 157306884, Total Liabilities 25168902.

Table 89004: ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. RGA Life And Annuity Insurance Company. Total Assets 1337222354, Total Liabilities 8520836791.

Table 89184: ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. Sterling Investors Life Insurance Company. Total Assets 101,531,320, Total Liabilities 83,342,239.

Table 87963: ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. National Teachers Associates Life Insurance Company. Total Assets 687213635, Total Liabilities 627860518.

Table 93572: ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. RGA Reinsurance Company. Total Assets 71242725184, Total Liabilities 68253130095.

Table 20109: ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. BITCO National Insurance Company. Total Assets 186,509,719, Total Liabilities 86,450,328.

CLASSIFIEDS
HELP WANTED: MAYPORT-CG High School seeks HS SCIENCE TEACHER beginning Aug. 2026.
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