

ALBANY, N.Y.

Pittsfield man pleads guilty to child sex crimes

A 58-year-old man from Pittsfield pleaded guilty on Tuesday to sending more than 1,000 sexually explicit online messages to an undercover police officer posing as a 14-year-old boy.

Bryan Krynicki pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York to a charge of attempting to coerce and entice a minor into sexual acts. As part of the plea, he agreed to be sentenced to 120 months in prison. The judge in the case has scheduled sentencing for March.

As part of his guilty plea, Krynicki admitted in court that he had exchanged sexually explicit messages with what he thought was a 14-year-old between February and April 2020. He also admitted to traveling from Pittsfield to Rensselaer County, New York, in April of last year for the purpose of having sex with a minor.

His arrest resulted from an investigation by the FBI and its Child Exploitation Task Force, which includes members of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Rachel L. Williams as part of Project Safe Childhood.

BRUNSWICK, Ga.

Judge won't change racial makeup of jury

The judge in the trial of three white men who chased and killed Ahmaud Arbery declined to override decisions in jury selection yesterday that left just one Black juror on the final panel of 12, though he agreed with prosecutors that “there appears to be intentional discrimination.”

Prosecutors had asked Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley to reinstate eight Black potential jurors, arguing that defense lawyers struck them from the final jury because of their race. The U.S. Supreme Court has held it's unconstitutional for attorneys during jury selection to strike potential jurors solely based on race or ethnicity.

Race is a central issue in the trial over the 25-year-old Black man's death. Greg McMichael and his adult son, Travis McMichael, armed themselves and pursued Arbery in a pickup truck after they spotted him running in their neighborhood. A neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan, joined the chase in his own truck and took cellphone video of Travis McMichael shooting Arbery three times with a shotgun.

After more than two weeks of jury selection, attorneys on both sides yesterday narrowed a panel of 48 potential jurors to a final jury of 12.

Minutes later, prosecutor Linda Dunikoski challenged defense attorneys' decision to strike eight specific Black jurors, arguing they were cut from the panel because of their race.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

Vietnamese oil tanker seized

Iran seized a Vietnamese-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman last month and still holds the vessel, two U.S. officials told The Associated Press yesterday, revealing the latest provocation in Mideast waters as tensions escalate between Iran and the United States over Tehran's nuclear program.

Iran's powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard troops took control of the MV Southys, a vessel that analysts suspect of trying to transfer sanctioned Iranian crude oil to Asia, on Oct. 24 at gunpoint. U.S. forces had monitored the seizure, but ultimately didn't take action as the vessel sailed into Iranian waters.