

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

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## **Bocomo Bay operators indicted on federal drug charges related to K2 sales**

By [Hannah Baldwin](#)

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*\*CORRECTION: Kevin E. Bay is 44. His age was incorrect in an earlier version of this story.*

COLUMBIA — A federal grand jury has indicted Columbia business operators Kevin E. Bay, 44\*, and John Hawkins, 61, and charged them with distributing more than \$2 million worth of synthetic marijuana, also known as K2.

Bay owns Bocomo Bay, a smoke shop at 1122 Wilkes Blvd. in Columbia. He and Hawkins operate the shop together.

The indictment was returned by the grand jury on Oct. 2. It was made public Thursday by the U.S. Attorney's Office, after Bay and Hawkins' first court appearances.

Together, they were charged with 21 counts, including conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance analogue — a synthetic chemical designed to be like a drug — as well as conspiracy to distribute drug paraphernalia. Bay was also charged with money laundering.

During searches of Bocomo Bay and the residence shared by Bay and Hawkins, law enforcement officials seized jewelry, gold and silver coins, gold and silver bars, firearms and miscellaneous ammunition.

The pair were released on bond after they surrendered to federal authorities Thursday.

Eight individuals and four businesses were also indicted by a grand jury on similar charges.