

Water line break causes damages at the courthouse

A water line to the heating and cooling system at the Estill County Court House broke Saturday morning.

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson said that the damage would have been worse, but County Clerk Brian Crowe was painting his office in the courthouse and heard a spewing.

"It sprayed water all over the phone system in the basement," Watson stated.

The phone lines were out until Monday afternoon.

It damaged computer equipment used by the office of County Clerk Brian Crowe. This was also located in the basement. Because the equipment connects the county's computer sys-

tem with the state's, no vehicles can be transferred until it is repaired.

Watson expects the county clerk's office will be closed all week. Court house offices are closed for pandemic anyway, but they are receiving mail and phone calls.

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson said the break destroyed some old records that were stored in the basement. Those records were taken taken to the landfill. They were described as old work orders on the roads, and things that were scheduled to be destroyed anyway.

Watson has contacted the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) about the heating and cooling system at the

courthouse. AOC rents space from the county and usually pays a portion for replacing necessary items.

A heating company was called in on Monday morning and started checking the lines.

"It blew out five more places this morning," Watson said.

He said one place a four inch water line had been reduced to 3/4 inches.

Watson said he hopes the courthouse will purchase a different type of heating and cooling system.

This is the 16th month of Watson's present term in office, and this is the second break at the courthouse. The last one was a little over a year ago.

Watson said the county is insured

by KACO Insurance. He called the company and they recommended that he call Serve Pro to come and dry out the basement.

He said that any papers that can be salvaged will be.

Road department employees moved books from the county clerk's office on Monday to the bank vault of the former BB&T Bank. The bank building was sold to the county last summer and is being renovated.

Road foreman Brad Goolman said he has worked for the county eight years. He estimated the county has had five or six water line breaks during that time with the heating and air system.

School Board meets

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However, meals are still being taken to six satellite locations and can be picked up at two of the schools. Saylor added that if there was a family who did not have transportation to pick up meals for their student then they should contact Teresa Dawes at Central Office to make arrangements.

He said currently they are providing close to 8,000 meals per week and the backpack program is still up and running as well.

The board discussed high school graduation at great length and how they would be able to honor the class of 2020 while still following the guidelines. All board members were in agreement that something should be done regardless of when they would be able to do it.

A December date was even discussed at one point but those plans have been put on hold as Governor Andy Brashear recommended that all schools remain closed through the rest of the school year. This was announced on Monday afternoon.

Brashear also told superintendents throughout the state that based on recommendations from the White House that all proms and graduation ceremonies would not likely happen.

Saylor said that they had plans in the works to honor seniors who play softball, baseball, tennis, and track. He said they were in the process of having banners made that would be hung up at Central Office and possibly at some local businesses in town.

Morgantown nursing home has largest coronavirus outbreak at a Ky. long-term facility, 51 cases; same owner has Nos. 2 and 3

The largest outbreak so far of coronavirus cases at a long-term-care facility in Kentucky is at a Morgantown nursing home that is owned by the same company as the second and third largest outbreaks. That company has 42 nursing homes in Kentucky, according to its website.

Signature HealthCare of Louisville said in a press release that Morgantown Care & Rehabilitation Center has 29 residents and 22 employees who have tested positive for the virus.

"Officials said all 29 residents stricken are 'asymptomatic' or have 'mild' cases of the virus," and all are being treated at the facility, in a separate wing, WBKO-TV in Bowling Green reports.

"They are doing a very good job of responding," Gov. Andy Beshear said as

he gave numbers of new cases at his daily briefing.

Signature also has Summit Manor in Columbia, where 37 residents or employees were found to have the virus Thursday, and Jackson Manor in Annville, which has had 40 cases overall, the Lexington Herald-Leader reports.

The company said the Morgantown facility "was fortunate enough to obtain enough of the highly sought after and reliable covid-19 tests, and out of an abundance of caution for the protection of our residents, staff and community at large, (that a decision was made) to test the entire facility."

"Butler County Judge-Executive Tim Flener announced the news in a Facebook post Sunday, identifying the facility as the community's nursing home," the Bowling Green Daily News reports.

The company said any employees who tested positive would not be allowed to return to work "without special and verified medical clearance," and residents whose cases become more severe will be transferred to hospitals as directed by their physicians.

Besides Morgantown, Columbia and Annville, Signature has Kentucky homes in Albany, Augusta, Bardstown, Beattyville, Bedford, Bowling Green, Brodhead, Calhoun, Calvert City, Carrollton, Danville, Elizabethtown, Georgetown, Glasgow, Harrodsburg, Hartford, Hodgenville, Horse Cave, Lawrenceburg, Lexington (three), Louisville (seven), Liberty, Owensboro (two), Pine Knot, Prestonsburg (two), Radcliff, Taylorsville, Tompkinsville and Winchester.

The Morgantown facility is rated "below aver-

age" for inspections and quality of care on the Nursing Home Compare site of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, but above average for staffing. The Columbia facility is rated average on inspections and staffing but "much below average" for quality of care ("below average" for those staying a short time). The Annville facility is rated much below average on inspections, below average on quality of care and average on staffing.

In the three years ending in mid-2019, the Morgantown facility had three serious deficiencies and 33 overall deficiencies in the state during that period, according to a compilation by ProPublica, a national investigative reporting newsroom.

Police Activity Report

Felisha A. Lewis, 29, of Crestview Court, Irvine, was arrested April 20 by Irvine Officer Jason Conrad on a charge of public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol).

Katherine M. Turner, 41, of Waco was cited for theft by unlawful taking under \$500 by Irvine Officer James Marshall on April 9.

Officers Marshall and Stewart Morris were in Shell Mart when they said Turner's actions caught their attention. Officer Marshall said that Turner was trying to conceal something from the sales clerk.

The officer added they did a Terry stop on Turner and found a cell phone charger.

She is scheduled to appear in Estill District Court on May 27 at 9 a.m. for an arraignment.

Zaron M. Curtner, 47, of Corbin was served with a Knox County warrant by Officer Conrad on April 17.

Around 8:10 p.m. on April 17, KSP Trooper J. Bowman said he responded to a complaint on Rosemont Road where **Chris Rose** and another man were shooting on the property and blowing something up.

Rose told the trooper that he had hid the rifle in the wood line when the trooper walked away from him.

The rifle was a Savage

30-06 bolt action. Trooper Bowman ran the serial number through NCIC and it confirmed the rifle was stolen. The trooper stated the rifle was loaded with three rounds. He also found 2 spent 30-06 cases on the hood of the vehicle.

He arrested Rose, 41, of Rosemont Road, Irvine, who was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and receiving stolen property (firearm).

Deputy Josh King and Irvine Chief John Sturniolo responded to a dispute involving suspicious activity at a mobile home on Turner Avenue.

A female at the scene told the officers that a male had left the scene.

As the officers were driving back downtown, Officer Jason Conrad notified them on radio of a male fitting the description at Liquor World.

Deputy King asked the man his name, and he twice told him it was Eddie Rice.

The male gave the deputy his ID which read the name of **Danny R. Bustle**, 51, of Berea. During a search, King said he found a syringe with a tan colored liquid that was field tested to be heroin.

Bustle was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, giving officer false identifying information, and drug paraphernalia - buy/posses

Fiscal Court meets

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The first item of the meeting was bid openings for traffic control equipment, vehicle outfitting, and rugged laptops for fire and EMS.

Several companies had bid for the traffic control equipment. Riddell explained to the fiscal court, they may consider multiple vendors for the equipment.

Only one bid was received for vehicle outfitting for some vehicles recently purchased with CSEPP funds.

Two bids were received for 18 tough books (laptops) to be installed in fire trucks and EMS vehicles.

None of the bids were accepted Monday. They will be reviewed by Riddell and the other agencies involved.

All of the items will be paid for out of CSEPP funds.

The first bid accepted was for SBCAs (self-contained breathing apparatuses). Riddell recommended the fiscal court accept a bid for MSA brand although they were not the lowest price and were not the first choice of the Irvine and Hargett Fire Departments.

Riddell said the Estill County Fire Department currently owns 30 cylinders that were compatible with this brand, which can be used by the other fire departments.

A different vendor was awarded a bid for a cascade system with fill station. A bid for portable radios was awarded to RHW Enterprises, LLC of Irvine. No action was taken on the bid for the Happy Top generator of Irvine.

Watson said he had been contacted by Reuben Turner of Hinkles about the \$434,936 in discretionary funds the county received last year for pavement of several roads recommended by the state.

Hinkles was unable to do the work last year because of rainy weather, but Turner said that Hinkles could begin blacktopping in May. However, the cost is now \$442,775.

Watson said all of the FEMA sites are done except for resurfacing. He expects the county will get several hundred thousand dollars back from FEMA to pay for that blacktopping and driving steel.

The fiscal court voted unanimously to approve Hinkles' request.

After a short discussion, the fiscal court voted unanimously to not participate in the Hollerwood Park. "I don't think we'll ever get any of (our money) back," Watson stated.

He added that Wolfe and Lee had already voted not to participate, leaving only Powell County. Watson said the cost is now \$4,000 a month and will be for 30 years.

"That's \$48,000 a year of taxpayers' money to go somewhere else," said Magistrate Paul Tipton.



Ravenna Mayor Estine Tipton models a mask that she sewed. She is donating her masks to health care workers.

Ravenna mayor sews masks for pandemic

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She has another sewing machine at home, and she sometimes sews masks there.

Each year, Ravenna hosts the Joan Hunt Richardson Memorial Easter Egg Hunt the day before Easter. Richardson was a Ravenna councilwoman who passed away from cancer. It was her idea for the city's egg hunt. This year, the hunt had to be cancelled.

Tipton said that Easter Eggs and candy had already been donated for the egg hunt before social distancing began. The plastic eggs would keep until next year, but the candy was "iffy."

Volunteers stuffed the

candy into the eggs just like they do each year for the egg hunt. Inside each egg went a little message saying the eggs were in memory of Richardson.

The filled eggs then were donated to Estill Springs Elementary to go into their backpack program. The backpacks are distributed weekly to children who may not have food for the weekend.

If you see Estill Springs' principal, Jessica Mullins, she may be wearing a 'granny made' mask too since she is another one of Tipton's granddaughters. Mullins was instrumental in seeing that the Easter Eggs got distributed with the backpack food program