

State school-bus guidance no longer includes social distancing

An Kentucky public-health officials have reversed their position about social distancing on school buses, after school superintendents said the plan wasn't realistic.

Health officials still say students must wear masks, practice proper hygiene and have their temperature and health checked daily on buses, Valerie Honeycutt Spears reports for the Lexington Herald-Leader.

The initial public-health guidance called for keeping students and staff six feet away from each other, even on buses, with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calling for one student to a seat, with a seat between them.

That's unrealistic, school superintendents said. Oldham County Supt. Greg Schultz told the legislature's Interim Joint Committee on Education June 2, "There is just no way that most schools districts will be able to get their students to school in a timely fashion or in a cost-effective fashion."

The same day, the immunization manager for the state Department for Public Health told superintendents it was changing its plan. Emily Messerli said, "In the classroom, we can't have students being on top of each other because they're in the

classroom for seven to eight hours. The bus ride is less time, so there is less exposure."

Messerli said families will be expected to provide masks for students, and bus drivers and monitors should have masks for those without one. Guidelines regarding masks and social distancing in school buildings will still be required, she said.

That may be a challenge. Interim Education Commissioner Kevin Brown said at the online meeting that superintendents say families in some communities will not encourage children to wear masks to school.

Fleming County Supt. Brian Creasman told the Herald-Leader, "The majority of our students will not wear a mask, because the majority of their parents refuse to wear masks," and that leaders who don't know the pulse of their community are destined to fail.

He added later, "School districts across Kentucky and the nation can have the best plans for operation and teaching and learning, but if we overlook the glaring issue of support of masks and social distancing, we are doomed before we even leave the gate," Creasman said.

Gov. Andy Beshear said

June 2 that schools that embrace the suggested public-health guidance will likely operate without interruption, but those that don't could face a shutdown.

He said state officials are still working on guidance for schools and will be influenced by what happens with the virus over the next two months. On June 8, the state Department of Education issued more guidance, titled "Covid-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools: Alternative Learning Design Strategies."

The public-health officials said in response to a question that they would consider using Plexiglas as a barrier between students in classrooms, but said it would have to be cleaned between classes. They also discussed options for allowing students to eat in lunchrooms, with enhanced sanitation between groups and assigned seating, to allow for contact tracing.

Meanwhile, districts are sending surveys about covid-19 to parents and staff to gauge their concerns and preferences regarding schools reopening in the fall.

State Sen. Max Wise, R-Campbellsville, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, told Honeycutt June 5 that he had sent Beshear a letter saying

he would like to convene an advisory council for the reopening of schools, including top education, health officials and Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, Beshear's secretary of education and workforce.

Kentucky High School Athletic Association Commissioner Julian Tackett said at the virtual meeting that from June 1 through June 14, high-school coaches will be allowed to meet with their players in groups of no more than 10 if local school boards and local health officials agree, the Herald-Leader reports.

Workouts for high-contact sports and practices for low-contact sports can begin between June 15 to June 28. Low-contact sports can resume competition on June 29. That does not include school against school competition, she reports, adding that a date had not been announced last week for when basketball and high contact sports could resume.

Kentucky Health News is an independent news service of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, based in the School of Journalism and Media at the University of Kentucky, with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

Fiscal Court meets

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Judge/Executive Donnie Watson said that the court did not know that two property owners had donated an acre each for the Cobb Hill Fire Department.

Both deeds stated that if the county ceased the use of the fire department, the land reverted back to the original property owners or their heirs.

The fiscal court had deeded property back to the other family in the fall.

The fire department building goes right through the middle of both properties, Watson stated. He added that it would be up to those two families to decide the fate of the building.

Watson was given approval to borrow an estimated \$714,000 to pay for FEMA projects in Estill County.

He said the county must pay initially, but will be refunded by FEMA.

He added the county is responsible for about 12-13 percent of the project.

According to Watson, the county has used their equipment, trucks, and employees to work on the FEMA projects. He said that will add up to more than 12 or 13 percent, and the additional money will be used for other road work.

Estill County EMS presented their budget to the fiscal court for \$1,695,834 for the fiscal year 2020-2021. Watson said EMS is their own taxing district.

The fiscal court approved a claim from Hinkles for blacktopping county roads recently. The roads were to be paved with discretionary funds from the state, but Watson said the county had not yet received them.

The fiscal court approved a check to Hinkles for \$442,520.46 when the money came in from the state.

He added that another water line had blown in the courthouse, affecting the air conditioning.

"We will get through it together, as the governor says," Watson stated.

Watson announced that a special meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on June 25 to approve the budget.

He added they will also be opening bids for gravel, gas, and diesel used by the road department.

He reminded Estill Countians to complete the census if they have not done so. He said the county has the highest number, 63.47 percent, completed in the area.

Local Police activity report

Following a hit and run collision on Main Street on Thursday, Irvine Police Chief John Sturniolo charged the suspected driver.

A citation states that **James Gilvin**, 61, of Lilly Ferry Road, Irvine rear-ended another vehicle on Main Street and left the scene. Gilvin was located on Chestnut Street.

The police chief states that Gilvin had a crystal like substance and a green leafy substance in his front pocket.

He reportedly told the officer that he was "methed out."

When transported to the Estill County Jail, Gilvin was asked if he had anything on him. He reportedly said he had \$500 in his sock, but IPD says no cash was found in the sock. The citation states that a brown powder and a pink/orange substance were located in his socks with a make-up kit. He stated the socks were not his.

Gilvin was charged with driving under the influence first offense/drugs, leaving scene of an accident, possession of a controlled substance, first degree (meth), possession of marijuana, operating without a license, no insurance, failure to register transfer of vehicle, possession of a controlled substance, first degree (heroin), and possession of a controlled substance, second degree (suboxone).

Darvis McIntosh, 41, of Church Street, Irvine was served with a Madison County arrest war-

rant on Wednesday, July 10 by Irvine Officer Jason Conrad.

Michael Shane Crim, 31, of Hargett Road, Irvine was charged June 3 with operating on a suspended or revoked operator license by Officer James Marshall.

The officer said he observed Crim driving on Main Street and followed him to the Irvine Nursing Home where he conducted a traffic stop.

Crim reportedly told the officer that he was just waiting for his sister to get off work.

Marshall said he arrested Crim because he has a history of failing to appear.

On Sunday, June 14, **Ricky Lee Abney Jr.**, 41, of Richmond was arrested by Officer Conrad.

The officer said he was dispatched to Noland Court because Abney was arguing with neighbors.

When Officer Conrad arrived, he said Abney was standing in the middle of the street with a baseball bat threatening neighbors.

Conrad charged Abney with alcohol intoxication in a public place and menacing.

Marcum Johnson, 30, of Cantrill Street, Irvine was arrested on Broadway on Thursday, June 11 by Officer Stewart Morris.

Johnson was charged with second degree disorderly conduct.

The citation states that Johnson was engaged in an argument and fighting with Dakota Harvey.

Joshua A. Holland, 55, of Winchester was ar-

rested Saturday, June 13 on Winchester Road by Officer Marshall.

The officer said he got behind Holland's vehicle on KY 89, Main Street. He ran the license plate because the vehicle had a rumbling muffler. The computer showed that Holland's operator license was suspended so Marshall conducted a traffic stop.

The officer stated he could smell marijuana coming from the vehicle's interior. He ran Holland's operator license, and it came back enforced (good).

The citation states that Holland said he had smoked marijuana with a friend a few hours earlier. There was also an open container of brandy in the vehicle.

The officer charged Holland with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, first offense and possession of marijuana.

Holland reportedly gave the officer two glass containers holding approximately one gram of marijuana, according to the citation.

Christopher Poe, 18, of Twin Creek Road, Irvine, was charged Friday, June 12 with public intoxication of a controlled substance (excluding alcohol).

Officer Marshall said he saw Poe staggering on Collins Street and smelled marijuana coming from him. Marshall said that Poe's arrest was made for his safety, because he had no safe place to go.

Donna Cockrell, 52, of

Little Rock Road, Irvine was arrested Friday, June 12 by Deputy Chris Coffey.

The citation states that she went to Big Katz Auto around 5:10 or 5:15 p.m. to test drive a vehicle. The owner advised her the business would be closing at 5:30 p.m.

It adds that she took the vehicle and did not return it until 8:50 p.m. The deputy stated that she was told the cops were looking for her before she returned the vehicle.

Camille Congleton, 43, of Beattyville, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs on Monday, June 15 by Deputy Josh Rison.

The deputy said he saw Congleton's vehicle traveling toward Irvine on the Richmond Road. She parked in an empty lot across from Shellmart.

He added that after the vehicle sat there for some time, he conducted a welfare check.

He stated the driver was very confused and unsteady.

Irvine Officer Jason Conrad performed field sobriety tests.

Stephanie Dunn, 28, of Red Lick Road, Irvine, was charged with public intoxication of a controlled substance.

An off duty Irvine police officer contacted Deputy Rison and said he had seen the female staggering on the sidewalk of River Drive.

Rison said he and Officer Conrad arrived to find the woman cursing and yelling at herself.

Candidates file to run for non-partisan office

The following candidates filed to run for non-partisan offices in the November General Election.

School Bd. District #1

Donna Isfort

School Bd. District #2

Rhonda Hardy

Tammy Watson

School Bd. District #4

Beth O'Hair

Carrie Smallwood

Conservation District

William Beard

Jason Crowe

Jon Webb

Fred Brown

Ravenna City Council

Tammy Howell

Bonita Callahan

Valerie Flinchum

Chris Smyth

William Tucker

Jody Collett

Sarah Beth Terry will present "Glass Houses"

American Legion Riders, Post 79, will present Sarah Beth Terry in concert on Saturday, June 20, starting at 7 p.m.

She is celebrating the release of her third album, "Glass Houses," with special guest, Hannah Fletcher.

Admission is \$10 per person or \$25 per car-

load. CDs will be available for purchase.

Bring your own chairs. No coolers. Beverages will be available for donations. Social distancing will be enforced.

For more information, call Johnny Brooks at 502-317-6902 or Larry Holder at 859-200-7075.

New Drivers

06/08/20

Motorcycle permit: Jeremy Walker.

Operator permits: Jalin Chapman, Kyra Farthing, and Kaden Arthur.

To make an appointment for a permit, call 723-3970 for more information.

Clarifications

Lindsey Rogers stated that she was not one of the 33 organizers for the Black Lives Matter Rally held last Monday at the courthouse.

The group said they were not chanting, "Corona. I can't breathe," but instead, "Momma, I can't breathe."



Weatherproofing
Hurricane season has begun where I live. What about you? If you live in an area where rough weather is likely, do a quick survey of your backyard to make sure Shepherd hooks, hanging squirrel baffles, bird-baths, statues, lawn furniture, etc., can be brought in quickly. Plan ahead.

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