

Cases, hospitalizations and ICU cases jump; KY judge blocks limits on day-care centers

By Al Cross
Kentucky Health News
Kentucky reported 299 new cases of the coronavirus Friday, one of the highest daily numbers yet, and four additional deaths, raising the state's pandemic death toll to 585.

Perhaps more worryingly, covid-19 hospitalizations in Kentucky rose to 455, and the number of those in intensive care rose to 99. Gov. Andy Beshear has said hospitalization numbers are more important than daily cases. He did not

comment on the numbers in his press release.

Friday's fatalities were a 70-year-old man from Fayette County; a 107-year-old woman from Jefferson County; and two women from Shelby County, 89 and 91.

Counties with more than five new cases Friday were Jefferson, 43; Warren, 25; Fayette, 15; Daviess and Shelby, 13 each; Laurel, 10; Boone, 9; Oldham and Pike, 8; Christian and Kenton, 7 each; and Hardin, 6.

Judge rules against Beshear: A circuit judge

in Northern Kentucky issued a statewide injunction Friday barring Gov. Andy Beshear and his administration from enforcing limits on sizes of groups of children at child-care centers.

Judge Richard Bruggemann's order also applied to automobile race-tracks such as Florence Speedway, a dirt track that the state allowed to open but without spectators. The judge allowed it to open at half capacity.

Attorney General Daniel Cameron, originally a defendant in the

suit but now a plaintiff, said in a press release, "While there is no doubt a need to protect public health during this pandemic, our Constitution expressly prohibits one person from controlling every aspect of life for Kentuckians. The statewide temporary restraining order issued today suggests the court shares our concern that the governor's executive orders are arbitrary and violate the constitution."

Beshear said he would immediately appeal. "This ruling is danger-

ous, and would lessen and eliminate important protections that numerous states are using to stop the spread of the coronavirus," he said. "An attorney general should protect people, not put their lives in danger."

"Attorney Chris Wiest, who represented the plaintiffs in the case, said the judge's ruling averted a crisis given the day cares he represented were a month or two away from closing if Beshear had his way," the Courier Journal reports. "Those plaintiffs had

taken aim at social distancing requirements in place for child care programs, specifically how groups of no more than 10 children must remain together all day without combining with another classroom."

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.

Passenger arrested for drug trafficking

Continued from Page 1

She was questioned again about drugs and reportedly told the Irvine officers that she did not have anything in her pants.

She was advised that she was being detained and was being transported to the Estill County Detention Center to be searched by a female jailer.

She reportedly told the officers that she had weed in her pants earlier but it was now in her purse, which had been searched during the traffic stop.

Marcum-Ray was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine), trafficking in a controlled substance, third degree, second or greater offense (drug unspecified), possession of a controlled substance, third degree (drug unspecified, and possession of marijuana.

Her arrest came about an hour after the driver and passenger were arrested.

She was also charged with public intoxication of a controlled substance (excluding alcohol). The IPD officers had received additional information that Marcum-Ray had ingested some form of drug just prior to the traffic stop.

When the Irvine officers found her walking on McKee Road, the citation states that she was unsteady on her feet and seemed to lose her balance for no apparent reason.

Fiscal court meets to end fiscal year in 6-minute meeting by teleconference

The Estill Fiscal court met by teleconference last Tuesday, the last day of June and fiscal year 2019-2020.

The purpose of the meeting was to transfer

funds to balance the budget at the end of the fiscal year.

The only other action taken by the fiscal court was to accept an estimate to repair the roof on one

of the old armory buildings in Ravenna.

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson said the roof was leaking at the building used for the food giveaways.

He added that one of the quotes to repair the roof was for \$10,000. The court did not have to take advertise for bids because it was under the maximum limit.

Police activity report

Jacob Harrison, 28, of Wall Street, Irvine was charged July 1 by Irvine Officer Jason Conrad with possession of a handgun by a felon and resisting arrest.

Officer Conrad said he observed Harrison riding a bicycle in the gravel lot next to the central office.

Conrad said he did a "pat down" to make sure that Harrison didn't have any weapons. He stated that he located a loaded handgun in Harrison's front pocket.

Harrison was charged with possession of a handgun by a convicted felon and resisting arrest.

Rick LeMasters, 54, of 4th Street, Ravenna was arrested July 3 and charged with fourth degree assault (domestic violence) no visible injury, public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), and third degree criminal trespassing.

Officer Stewart Morris was dispatched to a domestic altercation at the Ravenna residence. The dispatcher told them that LeMasters was physically fighting with his mother.

She told the officer that her son had pushed her and grabbed her arm. It was hurting.

The officer said that LeMasters was located at someone else's residence on the same street and was trying to get inside it. He added the man was unsteady on his feet and had slurred speech.

Ernest Richard LeMaster, 54, of 4th Street, Ravenna was charged July 3 by Irvine Chief John Sturniolo on a charge of driving on a DUI suspended license, first offense.

The police chief was dispatched at 3:30 p.m. to Main and Chestnut Street for a non-injury vehicle accident. He made contact with both drivers, including LeMaster.

The chief stated that LeMaster was having a difficult time holding his keys, dropping them numerous times.

When LeMaster was asked to present his operator license, registration and insurance cards, he presented his health insurance card instead of his operators license.

He reportedly told the chief that he had xanax in his possession but no prescription for it. The chief said no xanax was recovered.

The chief administered field sobriety tests to LeMaster. He told the chief that he could not perform the walk and turn because of a hip injury. He was transported to the hospital where he refused a blood draw.

Jeffrey Lyn Gross, 55, of N. Plum Street was charged July 4 with violation of a Kentucky EPO.

Officer Morris said he observed a vehicle coming off of N. Plum Street, and Gross was a passenger in the vehicle.

He said that Gross was the respondent of an active EPO, and was to have no active contact with the victim and to stay 500 feet from her.

The citation states that Gross would have been within 500 feet of the petitioner. Sheriff Chris Coffey went to the residence and confirmed the petitioner was at her residence at the time of the incident.

Brandon Allen Ault, 32, of N. Plum Street was charged July 3 with reckless driving, failure to or improper signal, failure to wear seat belts, and operating motor vehicle under influence of alcohol or drugs, first offense.

Officer Morris observed Ault operating his vehicle on Broadway. He said that Ault almost ran off the street on the left shoulder, corrected and then almost ran off the right shoulder.

The policeman added that Ault then attempted to make a left turn onto N. Plum. He failed to use his turn signal and missed the turn.

Ault reportedly refused a blood test at Marcum & Wallace hospital.

Jamie Chambers,

41, of Old Fox Road, Irvine was arrested June 26 at her residence by Deputy Josh King and was charged with assault fourth degree (domestic violence) minor injury.

The deputy said he met Johnny Watkins at the end of the driveway, who said that Chambers had been living with him for about three months.

The citation states that the couple had an argument, and Chambers threw a bottle at the back of Watkins' head as he was walking out the door. Deputy King said there was a golf ball sized knot on the back of Watkins' head.

Officer James Marshall arrested **Billy D. Blevins, 56**, of Northwood Apartments on July 4.

Blevins was charged with second degree disorderly conduct, menacing, resisting arrest, third degree terroristic threatening, and third degree assault of a police officer.

Marshall said a complaint was made that Blevins was in the common area drinking beer and being verbally abusive to everyone in the apartment complex.

When Officers Marshall and Morris arrived at the scene, Blevins was back inside his apartment, but the officers said he was yelling obscenities outside his window and threatening everyone.

When officers knocked on his door, he reportedly became belligerent and tried to slam the door.

The citation states that Officer Moore deployed his taser and Blevins swung his fist at the officer. Marshall said he used his right fist to knock Blevins down. When Blevins continued to fight, Marshall deployed his taser. He said they handcuffed Blevins after a three minute fight.

Troy Dustin Fugate, 27, of Church Street, Irvine was arrested July 2 by Officer Morris, who charged Fugate with public intoxication - controlled substance (excludes alcohol),

possession of a controlled substance, second degree - drug unspecified, and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess.

Detective Hensley said he observed Fugate between two houses on Church Street shooting up with an insulin needle.

When Officer Morris arrived on the scene, he said Fugate possessed a loaded needle. He reportedly told the officer there was suboxone in the needle.

Timmy L. Bishop, 27, of Cedar Grove Road, Irvine was arrested July 2 by Officer Morris for public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol).

Det. Hensley had also observed Bishop of shooting up between two houses on Church Street. Bishop reportedly told Officer Morris that he had shot up suboxone.

Shakir L. Harrison, 20, of Park Avenue, Irvine, was charged July 2 by Officer Conrad with alcohol intoxication in a public place.

Officer Conrad said that he received a call from Marcum & Wallace Hospital security that Harrison was stumbling down the roadway on Carhartt Avenue and going toward Park Ave.

The officer said when he arrived, she was on Park Avenue and was unsteady on her feet. She reportedly stated to the officer that she had taken multiple shots of whiskey.

On June 30, Officer Conrad served a bench warrant for Estill Circuit Court on **Hobert B. Hall, 42**, of Autumn Court, Irvine.

Two bench warrants were served July 2 by Officer Marshall on **Randall B. Jones, 31**, address unknown.

One of the warrants was from Estill Circuit Court for non-payment of court costs, fees or fines.

The other warrant was from Estill District Court was for failure to appear.

The American Legion Needs Your Help!

VETERANS POST
by Freddy Groves

I came across an unusual confab outside the coffee shop today. What was different this time was the presence of younger veterans.

"We'll help you," a young vet said to the group. "All you have to do is contact us and we'll be here. Or there. Or wherever you are."

I pieced together what was going on. The senior veterans were concerned about being able to form a funeral detail. One of their group was in the hospital and it wasn't looking good, either for the veteran or the local American Legion Post itself. The younger veterans, probably Sandbox era, had come down to offer assistance (and home phone numbers) should they be needed for a funeral.

I stepped up next to the one who seemed to be in charge and went into my spiel.

"Join the American Legion here in town," I suggested.

I explained that senior veterans make up the biggest percentage of membership in the Ameri-

can Legion nationwide. And they're not getting younger. Day by day we lose more of them. Maybe a Post will have 20 members... on paper... but only three are active. They're physically unable to pull off most of the fundraising events like they used to, and many Posts are likely to lose their meeting facility. Therefore, I finished, if young blood doesn't come in and beef up declining membership, the groups would disband, gone forever.

Is this the situation in your area, Legions closing and disbanding due to declining membership? Here's a thought: Go to a couple meetings. Find out what the Legion can do for you and your family, and what you can do for the it. It might be more than you ever imagined. Visit legion.org for details.

NOTE: If you tried to join before and weren't eligible, try again. If you served at any point since Dec. 7, 1941 and were honorably discharged, you're covered, courtesy of the LEGION Act signed in 2019 by President Donald Trump.

(c) 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Need A Subscription?
Call (606) 723-5012