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Resident Recalls Two Floods Page 5

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25 are rescued from flood



Two members of a swift water rescue team navigated flood waters last week. The swift water teams came from Lexington, Richmond, and Clark County through BERT (Bluegrass Emergency Rescue Team). Estill County is one of ten counties participating in BERT. Photo by Kentucky River Authority

Tommy Lane, chief of the Estill County Rescue Squad, estimated that about 25 people and several pets were rescued during last week's flooding.

He told about Estill County's Rescue doing a major rescue on KY 82 in Powell County.

Lane stated the man had driven through the flood waters and had been in the water for close to an hour. Powell County was on the other side of the flooded bridge and could not get to him.

He added Estill County took a crew with a boat, dry suits and life jackets.

They threw out throw bags for the man to grab onto. Lane said he was so weak, that didn't work.

"He rolled off the guardrail and into the water," he stated.

Two members of the rescue squad kept their eyes on the man, and knew the exact spot where he had gone down.

Once the man was rescued, he was placed into an Estill County Ambulance and transported to UK Hospital to be treated for hypothermia.

Lane said the rescue squad had been back in Estill County about an hour, when they had to make another rescue at that same place in Powell County. Another vehicle had driven through into flood waters.

A rescue was made with a helicopter and basket on Old Landing Road.

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168 report flood damages; 26 homes totally destroyed

Ronnie Riddell, director of Estill County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) estimated Friday that at least 250 homes in Estill County have received flood damages.

He did not include businesses in that figure. Among the flooded businesses were four beauty salons. Most of the affected businesses were on the Richmond Road, a few on the Winchester Road and Michael's Restaurant in Ravenna.

The Estill County Fairgrounds was flooded. D&J Hardware and Hardy Gas Co. in the same vicin-

ity were also affected by flooding.

Many residents of the county lost electrical power and water due to the flooding.

Melissa Riddell, public information officer at EMA, released a preliminary report Monday on the damages.

The report states that 26 homes were totally destroyed, 62 had major damages, and 54 had minor damages. Another 26 homes were affected by the flooding. The total was 168 homes.

Anyone with flood damages is asked to call

EMA at (606) 723-6533 if they have not done so already.

R. Riddell said the weather forecast was for moderate flooding. That usually means several roads in Estill County are flooded, which is normal several times a year.

This flood was so bad that over 80 roads were covered with water. The county ran out of warning signs to put at road entrances. Rescue personnel stopped traffic from going through the water on the Winchester Road and Richmond Road.

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Before the water went down, music center started collecting supplies for flood victims

River City Music & Arts Center on Main Street has played a big role in receiving and distributing cleaning supplies.

Jennifer Sons Richardson has been the contact person for the operations there.

"Clay Case asked us, 'what can we do to help the community?'" Richardson stated.

They decided they had the perfect place at the music center where people could drive through and drop off or pick up.

Friday morning, donations for flood relief had slowed down but requests were continuing.

Richardson admitted that she was getting worried. Then the donations started pouring in.

A truck arrived from The Burl, a music venue, in Lexington. The Local Honeys, a female singing duet from Lee County, accompanied that load of supplies. Half of them were headed to Lee County, which had also flooded.

One of the singers said this was not all. She said there were concerts scheduled at The Burl all weekend. Their plans are to return with more cleaning supplies.

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The River City Music and Arts Center on Main Street opened its doors last week, not to music and arts, but lending a helping hand to the community. They started collecting and distributing bottled water and cleaning supplies needed by flood victims. The parking lot on the side street by the center made a good drop off or pick up location. Above, volunteers from the center unloaded a pick-up truck full of donations which came from the BURL in Lexington, which was also sending supplies to Lee County. On Monday, flood victims were looking for mops, brooms, pillows and blankets. All of the local organizations and churches have been working together.

Obituaries

- Bobbie Sue Aines, 86
- John E. Arvin, 50
- James Chapman, 68
- Frances Day, 74
- Gerald Hoskins, 83
- Ruth Rison, 65

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