



An aerial view of the finished Chemical Weapons Facility

Chemical Weapons Facility Is Completed

The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) achieved a major milestone this week after both contractor and government teams declared construction of the main facility to be complete.

“Completing construction on this facility is a major step toward the elimination of chemical weapons in Kentucky,” said Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP site project manager. “Our construction team has done a tremendous job to build a facility that meets all of the standards necessary to safely and efficiently neutralize nerve agents GB (Sarin) and VX.”

This declaration comes nearly a decade from when initial groundwork began in 2006.

“Even more impressive than the facility itself is the success of our safety culture here at Blue Grass,” said Doug Omichinski, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) project manager. “We have been able to instill and maintain a safety mentality throughout the entire construction process.”

Over the last year, BPBG employees have completed 5,037,710 hours and 518 days without a lost time accident and a recordable injury rate 94 percent lower than construction industry average.

With construction complete, the Blue Grass project is fully transitioning to the systemization phase, where equipment and processes are put through a series of tests to ensure their func-

tionality leading into main plant operations.

“Although we are that much closer to operations, we must commit to testing our equipment first,” said Omichinski. “This process will take time, but it is a vital part to prepare for agent operations.”

While the main plant continues systemization, construction of the Explosive Destruction Technology facility, responsible for processing weapons containing mustard agent, will carry on until early 2017. After significant agent solidification was discovered in a majority of mustard projectiles, project officials selected an alternative destruction method using a Static Detonation Chamber to process these munitions.

BGCAPP is being built to safely and efficiently destroy a stockpile of 523 tons of blister and nerve agents in projectiles and rockets currently in storage at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

Design of BGCAPP began in 2003 with construction starting in 2006. Systemization is more than 36 percent complete and testing continues on a variety of facilities that will support chemical demilitarization operations. Chemical weapons destruction operations are scheduled to finish in 2023.

For more information on the project, please visit the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives website at www.peocwa.army.mil.

Felon is charged with burglary and hiding suboxone in crotch

An Irvine man was arrested Thursday and charged with burglary after Irvine Police received a call about a burglary in progress at 220 Hood Avenue on Wednesday.

The victim, John Nutter, told police he saw the male burglar leave the scene and walk down to River Drive toward Children’s Clinic.

Irvine Chief Brad Smith said the male walked behind Children’s Clinic where he was picked up on surveillance cameras.

The citation states the man was identified from the camera by Chief Smith and Probation and Parole Officers as Tommy Gene Bowling, 37, of Broadway in Irvine.

The citation adds the male got into a white Dodge Charger associated with Bowling and left the scene.

The video showed the burglar wearing an orange under-hoodie and black fleece, and a particular type of shoes.

The police chief stated

those clothing items were found inside Bowling’s residence on Thursday during a search by Probation and Parole.

Bowling was then charged with second degree burglary.

Once booked in the Estill County Detention Center, Bowling was slapped with two more charges.

Smith said the jail staff asked Bowling prior to a search if he had any contraband.

The police chief said that Bowling had attempted to smuggle over 40 suboxone strips into the jail.

He charged Bowling with promoting contraband first degree and being a persistent felony offender first degree. Smith stated that Bowling has been arrested and convicted of several felonies in the last five years.

Bail for Bowling has been set at \$20,000 full cash.

Court records indicate that Bowling was arrested while a case was pending.

Deputies recover victims’ items after burglaries

Two burglaries were solved last week by the Estill County Sheriff’s Office, and some of the stolen items were recovered.

David French of Stacy Lane reported a burglary of two out buildings at his residence on October 23.

Tools, valued at \$585, were reported missing. The items included a sawsall, grinder, jig saw, hammer drill, impact driver, batteries, drill bits, rods and reels, tackle boxes, and more.

Deputy Randy Farthing said the intruders damaged the outbuildings. They cut off the locks to gain entry.

Farthing said he recovered some of French’s tools after interviewing Casey Myers. Myers reportedly admitting to Deputy Russell Morris and KSP Trooper Pennington that he had broken into French’s outbuildings.

The report says that Myers had in his possession a new pair of Carhartt gloves that had been taken from French’s outbuilding.

The second burglary was reported by Ann Collier of Irvine on October 22 at the residence of her late brother, Gary Winkle, on McKee

Road, Irvine. There, the intruder forced the kitchen window open to gain entry into the residence.

Items reportedly taken were a lawn mower, cedar chest, and ladder.

On October 26, Deputy Farthing said he located a stolen shop vac which had been sold by Brien Vann, who stated he had bought it from Myers.

A ladder and cedar chest stolen from the Winkle home were recovered from Vann’s house on Riddell Clem Road.

Vann told the deputy that he sold the lawn mower to someone but could not remember who he sold it to.

Pastor Matt Vaught of Sandhill Christian Church reported a burglary at the church on October 26. Sheriff Gary Freeman is investigating.

The report says entry was gained inside the church by forcing a side door open. The door knob was beat off the door.

A 32” television set was reportedly taken.

Burglaries at two other churches in Estill County in early October remain unsolved.

Attempted break-in

Deputy Russell Morris has located at least two people who are involved with an attempted break-in at Rose’s Cash and Carry a few weeks ago.

The deputy said he questioned Melissa Bishop about the attempted break-in on October 29.

She said that Billy Ray Neal tried to break the door glass with a horse shoe. She stated the door shattered but

would not break.

She added they were going to steal cigarettes, lunch meat, and pop.

Bishop allegedly told the deputy that she, Anthony Tomson, Brenda Neal, and Billy Ray Neal drove Tom’s car to the bottom of Sand Hill Road.

Bishop and Billy Ray Neal went to Rose’s while the two others remained in the car.

Bust in Meth Labs

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Charged with the manufacture of methamphetamine, first offense, were Edward Wayne Jordan, 40, of Race Track Road, Irvine, Jerry Dewayne Stone, 48, address unknown, and Ashley Groves, 31, of Winchester, Ky.

Jordan was also charged with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine).

Bail for Jordan and Groves was set at \$25,000 full cash. Stone’s bail was set at \$20,000 full cash.

Court records indicate that Jordan was arrested while a charge was pending.



Trick-or-Treat-Trot was held October 29th on Broadway. Students from Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and Health Occupational Student Association worked together to pass out candy to children. In this picture from left to right on front row: Joyce Parker, Adviser for HOSA; Meredith Hardy, Lindsey Wood, Elizabeth Reece, Hayley Bishop, Kaylen Cox, Anna Trimble; Kristen Wilson and Debbie Anders, Advisers for FCCLA. Back Row: Kiely Flynn, Cody Smith, Kordel Day, Ethan Casad, Dustin Warner, Jason Watkins, Hunter Walters and Paul Paguada. (Photo Submitted)



Bryson Charles Thacker dressed as a knight.



Boone McIntosh was a zombie sock monkey.