

Dispatchers Are First Voice in an Emergency

Everybody knows their number, but not too many people know their faces. The youngest of our school children are taught to call them in an emergency, any emergency, but they rarely get any recognition. Then again, that isn't why they do the job.

Estill County is fortunate to have some of the best emergency service personnel in the state and the first voice you will probably hear when an emergency occurs is one of the fine men or women that work at the Estill County Emergency Operation Center Dispatch Office.

These men and women dispatch numerous calls ev-

ery day for various agencies ranging from the ambulance service, fire departments, rescue squad and various law enforcement agencies such as state police, city police and sheriff's office to the various road, street and highway departments. These great men and women receive your call during an emergency and then dispatch it to the correct agency quickly so the help you need can be on its way.

Typically there is only one dispatcher working per shift and this dispatcher will do his or her best to get accurate and specific information from the caller so that they can get the right responder

to the correct location as fast as possible. Please remember should you ever need to call 9-1-1, it will be one of these people asking for your name, address, phone number and other important information. They train for numerous hours to get help to you when you need it but they rely on you to give them the information they need.

Should you have any questions regarding the dispatch office or any of the services they provide, please do not hesitate to contact Renaye Merrill, 9-1-1 supervisor, at (606) 723-6420; or Ronnie Riddell Jr., emergency management director, at (606) 723-6533.



Estill County Dispatchers, left to right, front: Suzy Gross, Jennifer Helton, Tedra Hunt, Michelle Hoover. Back: David Stone, Michael Lewis, Joyce Rifembark and Hillary Bledsoe.

Hundreds attend public meeting to oppose illegal dumping of NORM

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Matthew McKinley from the Department of Radiation of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services said that their main priority was the safety of the citizens and to ensure unnecessary exposure to the radioactivity. He did stress his level of concern for the workers at the landfill at the time of the dumping and he added that the employees would be closely monitored.

McKinley said that upon initial testing over the weekend that there was no abnormal levels of radiation at any of the locations that were tested including the two schools that sit directly across the road from the landfill.

County Judge Executive Wallace Taylor said that ECO-Tech, a firm that was hired by the county, had spent eleven hours performing air and water quality tests in various locations in and around the landfill on Sunday prior to the meeting.

"I can assure you that if there had been any issues that our students would not have been in school," Taylor added.

Dave Retell, director of landfill operations for Advanced Disposal, denied having knowledge of the illegal dumping of the radioactive waste. Retell said that a third party company (Veolia Environmental Services) is contracted by Advanced Disposal to approve manifests before any company is allowed to dump at the landfill.

He went on to say that the manifest was marked incor-

rectly and that Advanced Disposal is working closely with the Department of Radiation and with the Department of Environmental Protection on the investigation.

"We are moving ahead prior to receiving the violations. The waste is under soil and is properly covered and we will do whatever is necessary to ensure the safety of our people and the environment," stated Retell.

Ernest Farmer, former mayor of Irvine, said that to his understanding that there was a host agreement between the landfill and the county, and that he felt like the landfill had not been a good neighbor.

Taylor confirmed that there was a host agreement between the two parties and in that agreement it clearly states that no waste from outside of the state of Kentucky be brought here other than in 2010 when a company was allowed to dump liquid ammonia.

Michael Wilson, a concerned resident, stated that he had children that attends school across the road from the landfill and that the smell of methane gas was an embarrassment to the community. He added that Advanced Disposal had a net worth of 1.4 billion dollars and he thought they should pay for two new schools to be built and that a cease and desist order should be put on the landfill for violating the host agreement.

Taylor stated that if they could verify that the landfill knowingly did something wrong then then county

would shut them down.

On Friday, Director of Pupil Personnel Dickie Arthur said that he had received his first complaint from a concerned parent on Thursday. He said that he had spoken with approximately 10 concerned parents since then but attendance at both the high school and the middle school seemed normal.

"Everything is safe and until someone does testing and tells us it's not, then we will be in school," state Arthur.

County Judge Executive Wallace Taylor stated on Monday morning that preliminary tests results on the air and water had revealed that air quality was safe, however, a leach pond near the front of the landfill showed a higher level of lead than normal. Taylor said that he didn't feel like the radioactive waste contributed to the high level of lead in the leach pond because the radioactive waste was placed in the rear of the landfill and the pond that tested high is located near the front. He said that another company would be performing more tests in the next week or so.

Taylor added that he would have locked the landfill up last Sunday but several factors go into making that decision. He said not only does the county receive approximately \$170,000 per year from the landfill in tipping fees but residents of Estill, Madison, and Lee Counties dispose of their garbage at the landfill and that roadside dumps would become a problem if residents didn't

have anywhere to take their garbage.

When asked why Advanced TENORM Services chose the landfill in Estill County to dispose of the radioactive waste, Taylor said that he didn't know the answer to that. He said that five landfills were passed up to come to Irvine, and he thought someone had made some big money off of this, whether it be the trucking company or the landfill.

So far, the landfill is in violation in four different areas and pending fines are in excess of two million dollars, according to Taylor. He said not only is the landfill facing hefty fines, but they will possibly face 160 counts of wanton endangerment as well. He added that in the near future he expects to see class action lawsuits from property owners around the landfill to begin popping up.

In the meantime, Taylor said that he is planning on doing everything he can to make sure the public is safe and that the landfill is being closely monitored to make sure this doesn't happen again. He said that security cameras will be installed at the landfill that can be viewed at all times from his office and he wants the landfill to install a machine that will be able to x-ray and detect the contents of every single truck that enters the landfill.

Taylor has reached out to Congressman Andy Barr and Senator Mitch McConnell for any assistance that they can provide regarding this matter.



Della Dawes and other members of the Estill County Dulcimer Club played for Appalachian Culture Night, sponsored by the Academic Booster Club.



Rachel Hughes and Brian Wagler sold tickets to the Appalachian Culture Fair. Rachel is a member of the high school academic team.



Entertainment at the Appalachian Culture Night was also provided by Dale Thomas. The event is held annually.

Local Police Activity Reports

IPD makes arrest for shoplifting at medical clinic

A White Oak area man was arrested Friday, March 4 after he was reportedly shoplifting at the Estill Medical Clinic.

Irvine Police Chief was dispatched to the clinic after a male stole items at the clinic.

The callers to dispatch identified the male as Floyd Michael Webb, 40, of White Oak Road, Irvine. They said he left the clinic in a Scion TC which had duct tape over the license plate.

Chief Smith said he located Webb at his residence on White Oak Road. During a body search of Webb, the police chief stated he found Vitamin B-12 which had been taken from the pharmacy. He added that four oxycodone pills and two xanax pills were also located during the search.

The citation states that IPD also located the Scion TC and the duct tape that was used to cover the license plate.

Webb was charged with theft by unlawful taking/shoplifting,

possession of a controlled substance, second degree and first offense, and possession of a controlled substance, third degree.

The citation states that Webb has bond conditions from Madison County.

Bail for Webb was set at \$5,000 cash. His arraignment was scheduled for Monday, March 7 in Estill District Court.

Woman faces marijuana possession charges

A woman was arrested last Tuesday afternoon on Broadway by Irvine Police.

Chief Brad Smith said the woman's vehicle was stopped due to suspicious activity.

He added that Irvine's canine, Fritz, alerted on the vehicle, a 2003 black Chevy. The driver reportedly gave consent for the vehicle to be searched.

Smith said that one marijuana cigarette and a marijuana pipe were located.

IPD charged Sandra S. Combs, 46, of Flinchum Ridge Road, Irvine with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Bench warrant served

A bench warrant from Estill District Court was served on Therron Combs, 49, address unknown, on March 1.

The warrant was issued because it says Combs failed to appear for an arraignment on a charge of giving an officer a false name or address.

No bail was set for Combs. The warrant says he has also failed to pay a \$30.00 service fee.

Bench warrant served

An Estill District Court bench warrant was served by IPD Capt. Adrian McKinney on Lauren A. Estes, 25, of Bertha Wallace Drive, Irvine.

The warrant states that Estes was found guilty in 2014 of no insurance and a charge of failure to wear seat belts was dismissed. The warrant was issued because of Estes' failure to pay fine.

Ticket booth vandalized

A ticket booth at the Estill County Fairgrounds was reported vandalized recently.

Teddy Hunt reported March 5 the criminal mischief to Deputy Sheriff

Randy Farthing.

The report states that someone gained entry into the ticket booth. Once inside the building, they poured paint all over the floor and painted on the walls and windows.

Farthing said an event was going on at the fairgrounds while this was done. Event goers were questioned but no one saw anything.

If you have information, please call Farthing at 723-2323.

Wreck injures driver

One person was injured Friday evening during a one car wreck on Doe Creek Road, about 7 miles from Irvine.

The driver, Lisa Morris of Stacy Lane, was transported to Marcum & Wallace Hospital for treatment of her injuries.

The investigating deputy, Randy Farthing, said that Morris was negotiating a curve when her vehicle slid across the road and struck an earthen embankment.

Morris was driving a 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt, which received moderate damages to its front.

2 are charged with trafficking in meth

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Twist was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, first (methamphetamine), possession of a controlled substance first (oxycodone), possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance second (suboxone), possession drug paraphernalia, possession of legend drug (gabapentin), possession of controlled substance first degree (LSD), and resisting arrest.

Twist's bail was set at

\$10,000 cash.

Arraignments for Twist and Jones were set for this past Monday, March 7.

Jones' only charge was trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree (methamphetamine). IPD says Jones had \$84.34 on her when charged.

Police say that Jones drove Twist to 706 Main Street, Ravenna.

Ravenna Police Chief Ken White assisted with the investigation.

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