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No students or staff were in danger

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staff Writer

On Monday afternoon, Superintendent Jeff Saylor held a press conference at Central Office to discuss the alleged threat made by a student at the Estill County High School on Friday.

Saylor said that over the weekend there were concerns posted across social media pertaining to this matter and that there was no threat made toward a student, staff member, or school at any time last week.

The incident that was investigated last week had actually occurred sometime in January but had never been reported

to school officials. On Thursday it was reported to Principal Chris Winkler that a threat had been made to a teacher.

Upon further investigation the student in question was charged and released to his parents. Saylor said that no mention of a specific type of weapon was ever mentioned and that this is still an ongoing investigation.

Mr. Saylor was out of town at a convention during the time that this took place. When asked if a letter or a one call sent home to parents could have helped them to better understand the situation, he said yes.

The school district does have a policy in place to notify students and parents when there is a credible threat made at any of the schools.

"I want to offer a sincere apology. No child was in danger, no threat was made in the past week," stated Saylor.

Saylor went on to say that safety is the main concern at all schools throughout the district. All employees are properly trained in weather related drills as well as active shooting drills.

A safety audit is performed routinely at all schools by the Kentucky Center for School Safety. He added that they go

above and beyond to make sure the students are safe.

The school district has recently added a "Safety Tipline" that can be accessed by visiting the district website. The tipline is anonymous and any suspicious activity or threats can be reported through the website.

Mr. Saylor said that attendance was the lowest it had been all year long on Monday. He said that it was not due to sickness but due to the information that had been posted on social media over the weekend. Approximately 170 students were absent from the high school on Monday.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Sandy Mansfield had a great Valentine's Day at Irvine Health and Rehabilitation Center. She came from the center's Valentine Party and was given a lap quilt made by Rather Bee Quilting.



Kentucky State Police cruisers blocked the entrance to Hood Avenue on Saturday during what was rumored to be a standoff. Once officers entered the home, they found the couple who lived there dead.

Police block streets, surround home before finding the couple dead inside

A tense situation in Irvine ended after several hours on Saturday afternoon, but an Irvine couple was found dead inside their residence.

Irvine Sgt. John Sturniolo was on duty Saturday when he was asked to go to 126 Hood Avenue for a welfare check.

According to Chief Brad Smith, family members had been unable to reach the couple who lived there on their house phone.

Chief Smith said that a side door was left unlocked. "(Sturniolo) could visibly see a deceased male six to

seven feet from the door," Smith stated.

Sturniolo then called for assistance in investigating the man's death.

About the same time, someone called dispatch and said there had been some kind of altercation at the same residence.

Sturniolo backed out of the residence and police set up a 360 degree perimeter around the home, not knowing if an active shooter was inside.

In addition to Irvine police, Kentucky State Police, the Sheriff's Department,

Ravenna Police, and others assisted with the perimeter.

Five or six state police cruisers were parked just off River Drive at the Hood Avenue intersection.

An alley crossing Hood Avenue was blocked in both directions, and Hood Avenue was blocked at Broadway. The residence was not far from Broadway.

From a distance, law enforcement could be seen with guns pointed in the direction of the home.

Chief Smith said they tried to make contact with anyone inside the residence by a PA

system. Dispatch also kept calling the house phone.

The police chief said they did not shoot smoke bombs into the house. He added the police department does not own any.

After getting no response, the local officers decided to make entry into the house.

The couple who lived there were both found dead inside.

After the officers went inside, the state troopers walked down the street to their cruisers while carrying their long rifles.

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Woman charged with burglary at the scene

A Cressy resident returned home last Wednesday morning to discover a burglary in progress at his residence.

As William Wise was driving up his driveway, he saw a female standing in

the back of his yard.

He told Trooper T. Allen that he then noticed a male leave his basement garage and pull the door down.

Wise hollered at the man and asked what he was doing in Wise's house.

The couple left after Wise told them to leave and he was going to call the police.

Wise said the woman then returned to the residence without the male, who was her boyfriend.

Wise said he knew the female but had not seen her for two years. She had been married to a friend of his.

The woman, Michelle Lynn Ginter, 39, of Mt. Sterling said she wanted to visit Mr. Wise and his wife, Lisa. Wise said he had no idea the couple was coming to his home.

Trooper Allen charged Ginter with burglary second degree.

As of press time, the trooper was unable to locate a boyfriend, but a warrant will be obtained for the man's arrest.

Ginter pleaded not-guilty to the charge.

Obituaries

- Daniel Ball Sr., 81
- Pauline Clayton, 85
- Mary Neal Davis, 87
- Albert Hawkins, 41
- Betty Haynes, 89
- Suette Morguson, 77
- Barbara Williams, 69
- Charles Williams, 71

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New Obits at EstillTribune.com



Vivian Carroll chose a 4-Patch variation as her quilt on Valentine's Day. Nearly 100 quilts made by Rather Bee Quilting members were given to the residents at Irvine Health & Rehab.



Former Irvine Mayor Leon Roberts looked over all the quilts made by Rather Bee Quilting with his wife, Ruby, before choosing one. The residents appreciated their quilt gifts.