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Residents Stranded by Flooded Road



Sunrise Valley Road was flooded recently. It is a dead-end road which left residents cut off from receiving mail and garbage pickup. It also left them without being accessible for emergency services.

Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

by **CATHY DAWES**
 Tribune Staffwriter

Several residents that live on Sunrise Valley off of White Oak Road have found themselves stranded after several days of heavy rainfall hit the county last week and flooded the road.

Steve Jenkins said the problem began about two years ago and has progressively gotten worse.

He added that the culvert that runs under White Oak Road which is maintained by the state is stopped up and will not drain properly which causes the flooding to occur just as you turn onto Sunrise Valley which is a county maintained road.

Jenkins said that his wife was not able to drive through the flood water and had to

leave her car parked at the church on White Oak.

He added that mail carriers and garbage trucks would not drive through the flood water so they have not been receiving their mail and their garbage has not been picked up.

Sunrise Valley is a dead end road with approximately 25-30 homes on that road and Meadowlark Bottoms which connects to it.

There is no other outlet other than White Oak Road, and residents say that it's a safety hazard because emergency vehicles would not be able to get down the road because of the water if there was a fire or a medical emergency.

Deputy Emergency Management Director Chad

Neal stated that the road being flooded was definitely a danger in the case of an emergency. He said in case of a fire they wouldn't be able to get the fire trucks through the water. In a medical emergency there would be a delay while they tried to get a boat to the patient in need.

H.B. Elkins from the Kentucky Department of Transportation said that they were aware of the situation, and that engineers had been looking at the problem.

He added that since Sunrise Valley is a county maintained road that he is not sure who is responsible for fixing the situation, but the state always tries to work with counties when a problem arises such as this.

Elkins said that there are emergency funds available through the Municipal Road Fund that the county can request if they need it.

County Judge Executive Donnie Watson stated on Monday that he is fully aware of the concerns that the residents along the road have because he has those same concerns.

He said he state is planning to fix the issue, but it's just a matter of when they will be able to get to it. Watson said that a couple of residents will have to give land easements to their properties in order for the culvert to be replaced correctly.

"It's a bad problem and we are going to take care of it and put this behind us," added Watson.

IPD searches home; arrests male resident

The Irvine Police Department executed a search warrant at a Pea Ridge Road residence on Saturday afternoon.

Captain John Sturniolo was assisted at the scene by Kentucky State Police Troopers Ty Robinson and Casey Caudill.

Acitation states that Irvine Police executed the search warrant because there had been controlled drug buys at the residence.

Two other citations state that controlled drug buys had been conducted at the residence the day before, on February 15.

A resident, Brandon K. Kelly, 30, was charged with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, and being a persistent felony offender, second degree, in connection with the controlled buys on February 15th.

A confidential informant working for Irvine Police allegedly conducted the first controlled buy with Kelly.

The citation states that informant went to Kelly's residence and purchased Heroin with cash.

The second citation stated a confidential informant

conducted a controlled drug buy from Kelly on the same date.

This time, the citation states that Kelly sold a quantity of methamphetamine to the informant for cash.

After the search warrant was executed, IPD charged Kelly with additional counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (heroin), trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine), possession of a controlled substance, second degree, possession of a controlled substance, third degree, and drug paraphernalia buy/possession.

During the search, IPD reports they seized 2.96 grams of heroin, 4 gram of methamphetamine, 8 gabapentin 800 mg, one suboxone pill, 29 syringes, a digital scale, baggies, and other drug paraphernalia.

IPD states they also received \$247.50 cash.

Kelly was taken into custody.

He pleaded not-guilty to all charges on Monday during his arraignment in Estill District Court.

Judge William "Bo" Leach scheduled Kelly to return to court on February 27 for a preliminary hearing.

Police pursue vehicle in city; driver arrested

An Irvine woman was arrested Sunday morning after Irvine Police report that she had fled from them.

Officer Colton Lewis said he was called to the area of Laurel and Ann Streets in reference to a black Dodge pickup that was driving reckless and creating a disturbance in the area.

He located the vehicle on Sweet Lick Road. The officer stated that it failed to maintain its lane of travel, and crossed into his path in the oncoming lane of traffic.

Officer Lewis said when he activated his blue lights and siren, the vehicle fled at a high rate of speed.

He reported that he followed the vehicle down Sweet Lick Road and onto Rice Street. Lewis said the truck then turned onto Elizabeth and Ann Streets.

According to Lewis, the driver then ran on foot into her residence on Laurel Street where she locked herself in and refused to come out.

Lewis stated that he had to conduct a forced entry into the residence. He found the woman inside a closet.

He said she refused all of his commands to show him her hands and refused to get on the ground.

The officer said she agreed to a breath test, which was given at Irvine Police Department. Her breath allegedly tested 0.208, over twice the legal limit.

Officer Lewis arrested Faye D. LaFountain, 33. She was charged with reckless driving; driving DUI suspended license, second offense; operating a motor vehicle under the influence; fleeing or evading police, first degree (motor vehicle); fleeing or evading police, first degree (on foot), and resisting arrest.

LaFountain entered not-guilty pleas during her arraignment in Estill District Court on Monday. She will return to district court for a preliminary hearing on February 27.



Estill Countians awoke Saturday morning to a few inches of wet snow, which covered the ground, building, and bushes (right photo), but the roads remained clear, except in spots. The sun came out a few hours later and melted the snow. The barn is located on the Winchester Road. The weather word for this week is flooding.

Estill Tribune Photos
 Delores Rowland



SUNDAY

 Daylight Saving Time Begins March 10
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