

Record snowfall cripples Estill Co., more is coming

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Many residents are comparing this snow storm with the "light dusting," which occurred on February 4, 1998. It was called the "light dusting" because that was what weathermen predicted.

Snowfall totals for the "light dusting" were much higher in Estill County than in Lexington. In places of Estill County, it snowed 18 to 23 inches or more.

With the "light dusting", temperatures were warmer. It was not a light snow, but a heavy, wet snow, the kind that is good for building snowmen and having snowball fights.

It was also the kind that clung onto tree branches and electric lines. Trees fell and sometimes on electric lines. In some cases, the utility lines fell from the weight of the snow alone.

Homes were without electricity for days, some for weeks afterward.

Monday's snow was a dry, light snow, which is often called powder. This is the snow that ski resort owners dream of.

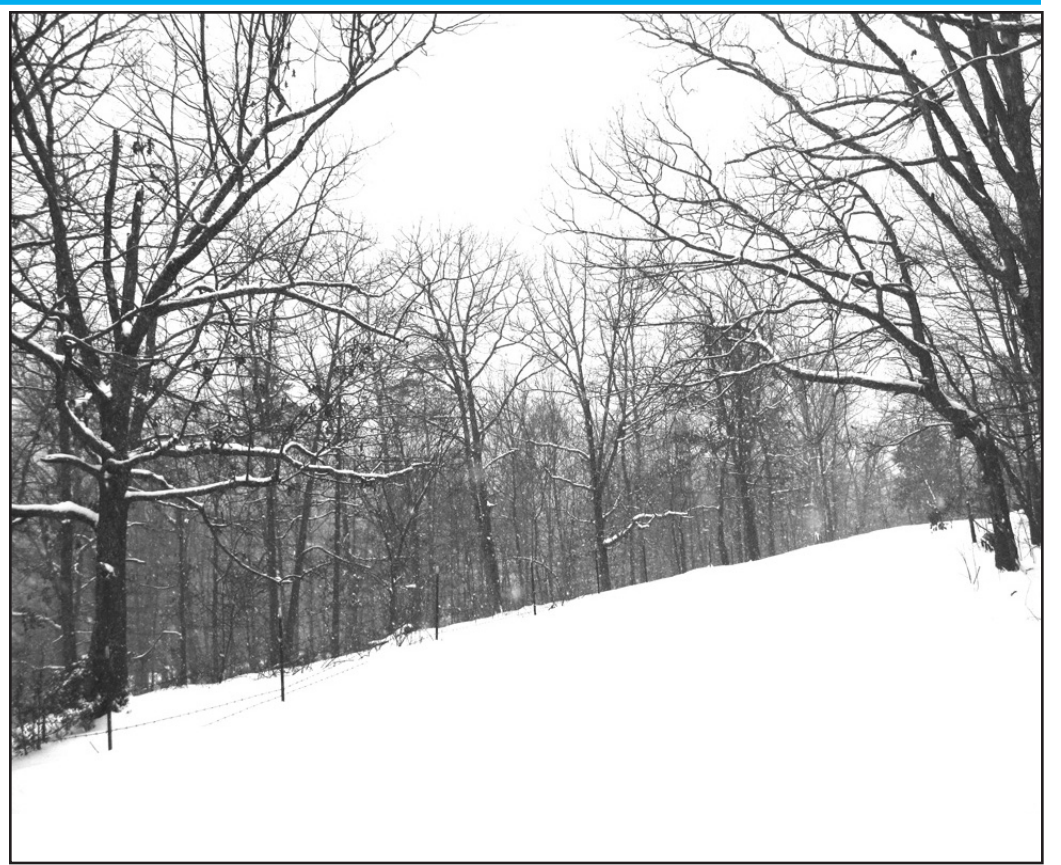
Very little has clung to trees and electric lines. Jessie said EMA has not received any reports of power outages.

Free weather radios, if

your home does not already have one, are available at Estill EMA on Broadway.

The radios will also notify homeowners of other emergencies. They are provided to warn of emergencies related to the chemical stockpile at Bluegrass Ordinance. Estill County has been divided into emergency Protective Zones, and the weather radio will be set for your zone.

At last week's Chamber of Commerce meeting, Jessie said the weather radios are good for getting emergency information to Estill Countians because only about half of Estill County residents have cable television.



Phyllis Alcorn took this scenic photo of snow covered road on Monday.

Informational meeting on fracking

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After the meeting, the Tribune editor asked McNeill if those companies which hold those ancient leases could frack on those properties.

His answer was yes. He added that he does not expect fracking on properties ten acres or smaller. Scheff said 75 percent of the adjacent property owners must agree to the fracking.

It is not known if Estill property owners have been approached by frack leasing companies. Scheff said those leases do not have to be filed.

County Clerk Sherry L. Fox said that many leases are filed in books in her office.

She and PVA Jeff Hix said that oil wells in Estill County are located on the eastern side of the county. They believe that a gas is being pumped at a well in the Pitts area.

Between 1998 and 2006, 293 permits for drilling oil and gas in Estill County were issued by the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

That federal agency divided Kentucky into three areas: Eastern, Central, and Western.

Estill County was the fifth leading oil producer in the Eastern region, producing 17,884,229.5 barrels of oil between 1998 and 2006.

Upgrades coming to MyHealthVet

VETERANS POST
by Freddy Groves

If you use MyHealthVet, the online gateway to your health care, you'll soon see a new feature that will help you interact with your health-care team: an online pharmacy. This tracker will give you 24/7 online access to the status of your prescriptions. You'll know at a glance when your prescriptions have been sent.

The prescription tracker soon will include images of the drug that was sent, and within a year you'll be able to get email alerts to let you know when your prescription was sent out in the mail. The medication tracker feature alone might be reason enough to sign up for MyHealthVet, if you haven't already.

There are three different levels to the program. You'll start with a basic account that does not require identity authentication. You'll have limited access to features, such as the journals, your goals, insurance info, health measurements and self-re-

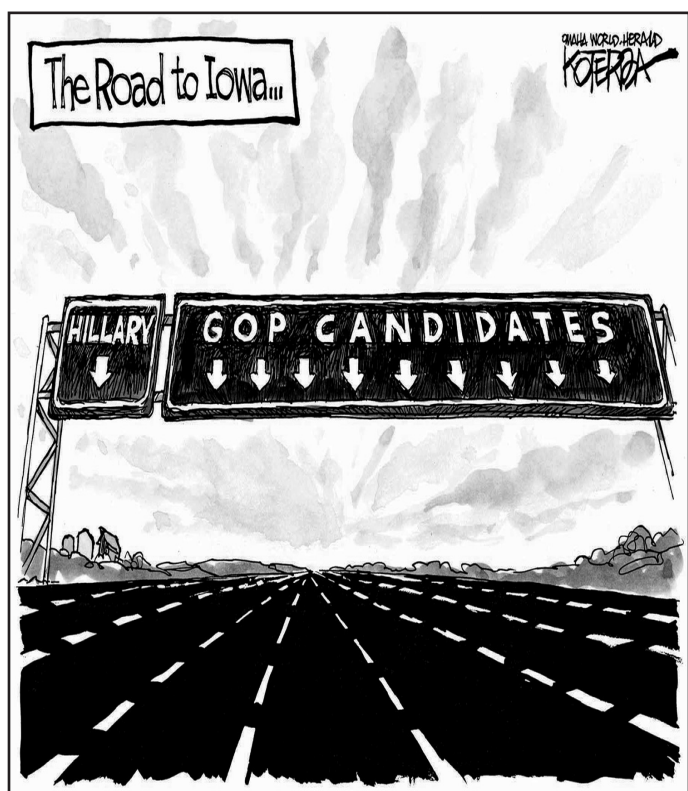
ported information such as lab work and medical events, and you can't see your personal medical information in the Department of Defense computers.

Upgrade one level to an advanced account, and you'll be able to view some information in the Department of Veterans Affairs or DoD records about yourself. When you become a VA patient, your profile is linked to those records. At this level you'll be able to use the prescription feature.

Upgrade to the premium level and you'll have the highest level of access. You'll need to undergo authentication and have all your info linked to the VA or DoD records. You'll be able to access your appointments, lab results, pathology reports and much more.

The MyHealthVet is one of the things the VA is doing right. It makes sense to participate and take advantage of the program. Go online to www.myhealth.va.gov to check it out.

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Police Activity Log

A man believed to be homeless was charged Friday, February 13 with felony theft.

Captain Adrian McKinney and Chief Brad Smith responded to 123 Hood Avenue to investigate a fight in progress. The police captain states there were six or seven people in one room of the residence.

Crystal Rigsby, an occupant of 123 Hood Avenue, told the Irvine police officers that Logan Shane Rerd, 26, had stolen approximately \$700 from her and had hid it in his shoe.

McKinney stated that at first Rerd said he did not take the money. He also stated it was degrading to have to remove his shoes.

After the questioning continuing, McKinney said that Rerd admitted that he took the money and hid it in the bathroom.

When the money was not found during a search of the bathroom, McKinney said he told Rerd to take off his shoes. Rerd pulled off his left shoe and removed \$625 and placed it on the counter, McKinney stated.

Rerd was charged with theft by unlawful taking/disposition and lodged in the Estill County Detention Center.

FTA Warrant Served
IPD Officer John Sturniolo served a bench warrant on Jennifer D. Cox, 41, of Collins Street, Irvine on Friday, February 13. District Judge Bo Leach issued the bench warrant on Cox because she had failed to appear in court for an arraignment on a charge of drug paraphernalia.

Arrest after a year
Jeffrey Scott Estes, 31, of Crooked Creek Road, Irvine was arrested Saturday, February 7 by Deputy Randy Farthing on charges that were almost a year old.

The arrest warrant says that on March 14, 2014, Estes intentionally damaged a vehicle belonging to Ronnie Abney by hitting it several times with a stick. Damages to Abney's vehicle were estimated at \$1,200.

Deputy Farthing said that when he arrived at the parking lot of Stop and Shop, Estes was under the influence of a controlled substance. He adds that Estes was creating a disturbance by screaming, making threats, and attempting to fight others.

Farthing said he then arrested Estes. But while the deputy attempted to deal with others on the scene, he said Estes escaped his custody. He said he told Estes several times to stop but Estes ran into the woods nearby.

Estes was charged with criminal mischief, first degree; public intoxication of a controlled substance; disorderly conduct, second degree; escape third degree; and fleeing or evading poice second degree.

Criminal mischief is a felony. The other four charges are misdemeanors.

Bail for Estes has been set at \$10,000 cash.

Arrest on Cantrill Street

A Barnes Mountain man has been arrested by Irvine Officer Karl Rifenbark, who says Thomas A. Richardson, 44, was at 517 Cantrill Street fighting with his daughter and her boyfriend on Tuesday, February 3.

Rifenbark said when he arrived on scene, Richardson was being held by two males.

He added that Richardson was screaming and cursing, and became extremely violent toward Rifenbark. The cop said he wrestled Richardson to get the handcuffs on him. Rifenbark said Richardson had a strong odor of alcohol.

The officer said that Richardson stated many times that he was going to whip Rifenbark and Johnathon Ballard, one of the men who was holding Richardson when police arrived.

The citation states that Richardson said when he got out of jail, he was going to stomp a mudhole in Ballard and the unknown male who was holding him until police arrived.

Rifenbark charged Richardson with alcohol intoxication, resisting arrest, menacing, and disorderly conduct.

EPO Violation

Irvine police say a man violated an Emergency Protection Order (EPO) less than 24 hours after it was issued.

Irvine Officer Karl Rifenbark served the EPO on Carl Fox, 52, of Oak Street, Irvine at 9:45 pm. on February 2.

At 10:07 a.m. on February 3, the person obtaining the EPO called 911 and said Fox was inside the residence on Oak Street.

Chief Brad Smith and Captain Adrian McKinney did not find the man inside the residence.

They parked their vehicles nearby, and the EPO petitioner called 911 again and said Fox was back inside the house.

McKinney said he went back and saw Fox going up the stairs. He placed Fox under arrest for violation of a Kentucky EPO/DVO.

He said Fox had a strong odor of alcohol on his person.

Woman arrested for theft

Irvine Police Chief Brad Smith said he was called on February 5 to Plum Street to investigate reports of a female stealing from a residence on North Madison Ave.

The chief said he made contact with Ragina G. Arvin, street address unknown, of Irvine. He said she had slurred speech, pinpoint pupils, and was very unsteady on her feet.

He added that he located hydrocodone pills that were not in a prescription bottle. He sated that Arvin had a prescription for hkydrocone which was filled on Febuary 2 for 50 pills. The chief said only five pills remained on February 5.

Arvin was charged with public intoxication of a controlled substance and prescription contorolled substance not in proper container.

Smith was assisted by Ravenna Officer James Gross.

Bench warrant issued

Jeremy L. Friend, 36, of Louise Court, Irvine was arrested February 6 on a bench warrant by Officer John Sturniolo.

The warrant was issued by Estill District Judge Bo Leach. It says that Friend was found guilty on 7:14/2104 of failure of owner to maintain required insurance and has failed to pay \$153 plus a \$30.00 service fee.

Captain Adrian McKinney served a bench warrant to Ella Johnson on October 6 for failing to appear in district court. The warrant says Johnson has four outstanding charges of theft by deception including cold checks.

Leaving wreck scene

An Estill man was arrested Sunday night, February 8, after allegedly leaving the scene of an accident.

Zachary Jones of Winchester Road, Irvine was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence, leaving the scene of an accident/failure to render aid, and failure to maintain insurance.

The deputy states that Jones' vehicle struck a parked vehicle on Red Lick Road around 10:19 p.m. He located Jones close by in the parking lot of Stop & Shop.

Deputy Farthing said that Jones had a smell of alcohol coming from his body, and Jones admitted to drinking six beers.

Failing to Yield

Isreal J. Davis, 29, of Noland Hill Road, Irvine, was arrested by Irvine Officer John Sturniolo around 8:30 p.m. on Friday, February 13.

The officer said that Davis pulled out in front of him as he was leaving Montie's Liquor Store. Sturniolo said this almost caused his cruiser to collide with Davis' car.

Sturniolo wrote in the citation that Davis smelled of alcohol, and he told the officer that he had drank a 42 oz. beer.

The citation adds that Davis failed field sobriety tests, such as finger count, alphabet, and number count. His blood alcohol content (BAC) was .090. Sturniolo said that Davis refused to have his blood drawn at the hospital.



The truck was cleaned off after Monday's snowfall, but the white car was not. The snow had not ended and had piled up around the tires.

Photo by Rhonda Woosley



The curve sign at the right is the only indication there is a highway beneath the snow on Tuesday morning. It is Hwy. 89 as it goes to the parkway, a priority 1 route. Later, snow began melting off the road on Tuesday, and highway workers had it nearly clean.