



'SOME OF THE HIGHEST WATERS IN YEARS'

Heavy rain floods portions of NEKY, Tri-State

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Persistent, heavy rainfall throughout Wednesday night and early Thursday morning created high-water problems throughout northeast Kentucky on Thursday.

Norton Branch Fire Rescue reported multiple water rescues in the Rush area of Boyd and Carter

Counties. Firefighters from Grayson, Ashland and Olive Hill, and Boyd and Carter County Emergency Management teams assisted Norton Branch "in a moment's notice," the volunteer department posted, "to help us brave some of the highest waters in years during this flash flood."

Norton Branch posted on Facebook that occupants were rescued and taken to safety. The fire department reported zero injuries.

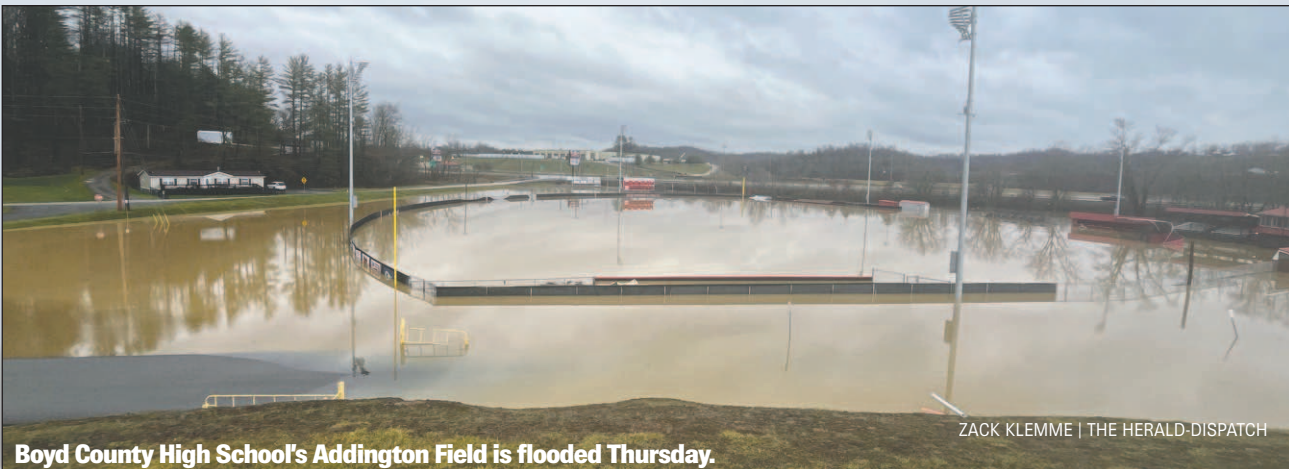
"It's incredible to see multiple agencies who love what they do band together for the sake of a community to help them in a

time of need," the fire department wrote. "We want to also give a huge thanks to Carter and Boyd County 911 dispatchers through this incredibly high-stress time."

A flood warning was in effect initially until 1:45 p.m. Thursday, but it was extended to 6:45 p.m. in Boyd, Carter, Greenup and Lawrence Counties.

Ashland Boyd County Catlettsburg Emergency Management announced Thursday at 1:40 p.m. continued runoff resulted in lingering high water across the area as area creeks slowly recede.

SEE WATER | A10



ZACK KLEMME | THE HERALD-DISPATCH

Winter storms bring flooding and 'thunder ice' in several states

CHARLESTON (AP) Storms spawned at least one brief tornado, sent creeks over their banks and caused flash flooding Thursday in portions of West Virginia and Kentucky, while a wintry mix coated trees and roads in ice and even dropped "thunder ice" in several states.

Residents and storm spotters in portions of Indiana, southern Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania reported the unusual mix of freezing rain accompanied by flashes of lightning in the unstable air.

"You ever seen that?" Brian Heffner of Spencerville, Ohio, said in a video he posted on Facebook. "I've never seen lightning and heard thunder during an ice storm. It's cool."

A long line of thunderstorms kept residents awake overnight with hours of heavy rains, flooding neighborhoods, triggering mudslides and rockslides, and causing accidents where water ponded on some interstate highways. Schools in numerous counties delayed classes or closed Thursday.

Multiple drivers had to be res-



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The washed-out culvert at Barbeque Road and Barbeque Spur is pictured.

cued after getting stranded in the floodwaters, authorities in West Virginia said. And the rescues weren't limited to humans. The Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association asked the community to adopt or foster 15 dogs after a portion of its shelter began to get

flooded.

Several inches of rain in Charleston prompted county officials to activate an emergency operations center. In Huntington, along the Ohio River, residents of some areas were told remain in their homes for several hours during flooding before the advisory was lifted Thursday afternoon. Much of West Virginia and portions of eastern Kentucky and southeastern Ohio remained under flood warnings by Thursday evening.

In south-central Kentucky, the National Weather Service confirmed a short-lived EF1 tornado with winds of up to 95 mph tore apart some roofs and scattered debris in Hart County, about an hour south of Louisville. No injuries were immediately reported.

The storm coated trees and roads in ice in several mid-Atlantic states before warmer temperatures moved in by midday Thursday. Most areas avoided significant power outages that can accompany accumulating ice on trees and power lines.

Forecasts for several inches of snow prompted closures and delays for dozens of school systems in New England. In Maine, more than 200 schools and businesses were closed or shutting early. The Kennebunk area school district was one of many that chose to close fully rather than risk a messy commute for afternoon school buses.

THE HERALD-DISPATCH

LEFT: Siquoia Jackson, of Huntington, pulls a bike through the floodwater while trying to travel through the Enslow Park neighborhood in Huntington, on Thursday.

ZACK KLEMME | THE HERALD-DISPATCH

BACKGROUND: The area surrounding El Hasa Temple is flooded in Boyd County Thursday.



Lawsuits filed, transferred

BY MARY JANE EPLING
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Two separate lawsuits were transferred to U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky last week against a school system, administrators and former special needs instructors — alleging each party held responsibility for the alleged abuse of two impaired children at McKell Elementary School.

Michael C. Lyons, Makenzie L. Rice, Faith M. Jordan and Ashley K. Trissler were initially indicted by Greenup County grand jurors on multiple felony counts of criminal abuse for either directly abusing the victims or failing to intervene while present for the offenses in December 2024, court records show.

Lyons, of South Shore, and Rice, of Greenup, both stand charged of 14 counts of first-degree criminal abuse.

Jordan, of Greenup, is indicted on nine counts and Trissler, of South Shore, faces seven counts of the same charge.

The initial indictment conceals specific actions other than each count

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Beshear signs another income tax cut into law

BY LIAM NIEMEYER
KENTUCKY LANTERN

As expected, Democratic Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear signed into law another cut to the state's individual income tax rate Thursday, saying that "things cost too much for our families" despite a "booming economy."

Beshear speaking in a video posted on X, formerly Twitter, said worries about increasing prices at the grocery store and gas pump are coinciding with the threat of tariffs implemented by the Trump administration that "would raise prices on virtually everything." The Democrat said signing into law another income tax rate cut is about giving money back to Kentuckians amid higher prices.

However, an analysis by the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy shows the greatest savings from the income tax cut will overwhelmingly flow to more affluent Kentuckians — "people who need them the least."

Beshear had previously said he intended to sign House Bill 1, the legislation cutting the income tax rate.

HB 1, sponsored by Rep. Jason Petrie, R-Elkton, lowers the individual income tax rate from 4% to 3.5% effective Jan. 1, 2026. According to a fiscal note, the change will decrease state revenues by an estimated \$718 million annually. The Republican-controlled legislature in 2022 reduced the rate by a half percentage point from 5% and by the same amount again in 2023.

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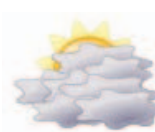
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TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH 48 FULL FORECAST, PAGE A10
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