



# THE JOURNAL-ENTERPRISE

Serving Webster County since 1902



Providence, Kentucky

10 pages, inserts

## Clay man dies in car accident

BY MATT HUGHES  
EDITOR

A Webster County man was killed in a two vehicle accident in Henderson County last Wednesday afternoon.

According to the Kentucky State Police, David B. Edwards, 60 of Clay, was traveling northbound near the 11000 block of US 41-A near Henderson at approximately 2:50 p.m. on July 8 when his 2010 Ford Escape travelled out of its lane and into the path of a 2006 Kenworth dump truck driven by William A. Ratley, 19 of Morganfield.

Edwards was pronounced deceased at the scene by Henderson County Coroner Bruce Farmer. Ratley was not injured in the head-on collision. US 41-A was closed for over three hours as KSP reconstructed the collision.

The cause of the accident is still unknown.

Contact Matt Hughes at matt@journalenterprise.com or 270-667-2069

## Gooch pre-files bill to limit governor's executive order power

### General Assembly's regular session will convene in January

BY MATT HUGHES  
EDITOR

State Representative Jim Gooch of Providence pre-filed a bill in the state house last week that would limit the time a governor's executive order may be in effect during a state of emergency.

The pre-filed measure, BR 73, states that any executive orders issued during a state of emergency would be in effect no longer than 30 days unless the General Assembly approved an extension.

Governor Andy Beshear issued the EM 3469 COVID-19 emergency declaration on March 13, 2020 when the Coronavirus crisis was just beginning. Kentucky remains under that emergency declaration four months into the COVID-19 crisis.

Kentucky Revised Statute 39A.100 "Emergency powers of Governor..." outlines the powers and responsibilities of the governor during a state of emergency, including "enforce all laws, and administrative regulations relating to disaster and emergency response and to assume direct operational control of all disaster and emergency response forces and activities in the Commonwealth."

The bill, filed by Gooch, will not be heard until the 2021 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, which will convene on January 5, 2021.

"It was important for me to pre-file this bill because I strongly believe no Governor should have the power to

SEE GOOCH/PAGE A3

## Superintendent lays out learning options for students

BY MATT HUGHES  
EDITOR

Webster County Superintendent Rhonda Callaway laid out the proposed format for reopening schools during Monday night's school board meeting. The model includes four different options for how students can attend classes during the 2020-21 school year.

The top option, which Callaway recommends for the majority of Webster County students, is the In-Person Learning model. This option

is available to all students in the county. This format will utilize current social distancing measures, while allowing students to attend classes in a traditional classroom setting.

The second option, which is also available to all students in Kindergarten through twelfth grade, is the Remote Learning model. This format will allow students to attend classes from home with the assistance of computers, tablets and other technology. Students

who opt for this model will attend classes virtually for real-time learning with their teacher, but just like In-Person learners, their attendance will be mandatory everyday.

Option three is the Virtual Learning model, which is available only to students in grades three through 12. This format will utilize the county's Online Learning Platform (Edgenuity). Much like previously utilized Link2Learn days, students will work their

way through assignments on their own or with the assistance of their parents.

Students will sign "Learning Contracts", and continued progress through assignments will be mandatory. The district will offer training for parents and students who select this option before the beginning of the school year.

The fourth and final option available to students will be the Hybrid Model.

SEE LEARNING/PAGE A3



Webster County Fiscal Court met in regular session on Monday, utilizing Gov. Andy Beshear's face mask mandate. Pictured are, from left, magistrate Jerry "Poogie" Brown, magistrate Chad Townsend, Judge Executive Steve Henry, county treasurer Tonia Duncan, county clerk Valerie Newell and magistrate Tony Felker.

Photo by Matt Hughes

## Jail faces potential \$1.2 million shortfall and manpower cuts

BY MATT HUGHES  
EDITOR

Members of the Webster County Fiscal Court learned of a new and somewhat unexpected victim of COVID-19 on Monday when Webster County Jailer Morgan McKinley introduced a request for \$131,074.54 in additional funds to meet the Webster County Detention Center's financial obligations for the month of June.

Officials discussed the probability that layoffs will likely be coming to jail soon.

While the jail's annual budget amounts to roughly one third of the county's entire yearly operational budget, the Dixon-based facility generally pays for itself through revenue from state and out of county inmates. Many years the jail ends the fiscal year with a surplus in funds, which can then be transferred into the county's general fund to be used to pay for other needs.

According to McKinley, the 2019-20

fiscal year was off to a good start. As of February, with eight of 12 months in the books, the jail was on track to end the year well below budget. Then COVID-19 hit.

Webster County jail normally houses in the neighborhood of 240 inmates. Of those, around 30 are county inmates. County inmates are either those serving county jail time or those awaiting trial and sentencing for state time in Webster County Circuit Court. The remaining 210 are either state inmates or out of county inmates. These include local inmates who were convicted and sentenced for felony crimes.

State inmates are reimbursed at a rate of \$31.34 per day. Out of county inmates are reimbursed at a rate of \$30 per day.

County inmates are responsible for their own housing fees, but the jail often never receives payment on many of these accounts. McKinley estimates

that there are over a million dollars in outstanding fees still owed to the jail.

Since the COVID-19 crisis began, Webster County Jail has seen the total number of inmates drop from around 240 to just 150 as the state government released state inmates and placed restrictions on the transfer of inmates between facilities.

That amounts to a loss of around \$82,809 per month in funding each month since the crisis began.

Each month the jail pays \$160,000 in payroll, \$6,400 for food services and \$8,500 in medical services.

The requested \$131,074.54 transfer to the jail fund will allow the detention center to meet its financial obligation for the month of June, but it will not correct the problem moving forward. To do that, officials have asked the jailer to take a serious look

SEE JAIL/PAGE A10

THE JOURNAL-ENTERPRISE  
VISIT US ONLINE  
www.journalenterprise.com



## Webster County at 56 COVID-19 cases

BY MATT HUGHES  
EDITOR

According to the Green River District Health Department, the number of COVID-19 cases in Webster County since the crisis began has risen to 56. Of those, 44 are currently considered recovered. One remains hospitalized.

On Monday, GRDHD reported 52 newly confirmed cases of the virus. Of those, 26 were associated with one long term care facility in Ohio County. Of those 26 cases, 16 were residents of the facility and 10 were employees.

In all the seven county GRDHD region has seen a total of 1,148 cases

of COVID-19. Of those, 922 (80%) have fully recovered and 13 have died.

The state of Kentucky is currently reporting 19,653 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 629 statewide deaths.

Contact Matt Hughes at matt@journalenterprise.com or 270-667-2069