



LOCAL OFFICIALS RESPOND TO U.S. COURT COMPLAINTS

Deputies Deny Allegations and File Response

By Eugenia Jones
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Denying allegations made against them, McCreary County Deputy Sheriffs James R. Flannery and Larry Lewis, by counsel, submitted their response on February 11, 2025, to a complaint filed on January 13, 2025, in United States District Court by Shirlene Terry-Phillips of Winfield, TN. In their response, the deputies ask for the dismissal of the complaint in which Plaintiff alleges the Defendants used excessive force against her. The two deputies deny the allegations of excessive force, as well as Terry-Phillips' statements that

See **DEPUTIES** on A12



School Bd. Responds to Special Ed. Complaint Filed in US Court

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Two plaintiffs, through their parents, filed a complaint on October 17, 2024, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Southern Division of London, against the Board of Education of McCreary County, Brian Crawford, Superintendent of McCreary County Schools in his individual capacity, and Samuel Marple, Principal of McCreary Middle School in his individual capacity. The action was taken under the Individuals with Disabilities Act as amended, Americans with Disabilities Act 42, and KRS 344.130.

According to the complaint, both plaintiffs are identified as children with disabilities, covered by the safeguards of IDEA 504, ADA, and KRS 344.130. The Complaint alleges the Respondent (McCreary County Board of Education) is a recipient of Federal Funds and is required to provide appropriate educational services to children with disabilities from the age of 3 to 21 and is a place of public accommodation that cannot discriminate in providing all services based on disability. The complaint further alleges that as superintendent, Defendant Crawford is to ensure compliance with both state and federal laws protecting children with disabilities from disparate treatment solely due to their disability. The complaint also asserts that, as principal, Defendant Marple is responsible for compliance with state and federal law relevant to the rights of children with disabilities attending McCreary Middle School.

The complaint states the two plaintiffs were students with disabilities at McCreary Middle School when their educational rights were violated. It alleges the Defendant Board, through Principal Marple, has established a pattern and practice of singling out children with disabilities attending McCreary Middle School for disparate treatment, resulting in violation of the Plaintiffs' educational rights.

Specifically, the complaint contends that Principal Marple violated the IDEA by changing the placement of one of the plaintiffs to a more restrictive environment without convening an Admission and Release Committee (ARC) meeting with the parent present. When the plaintiff's mother questioned the change of placement, the complaint

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GIRL POWER

Eight McCreary Wrestlers land in State Tournament.

By Staff Report

CAMPBELLVILLE - McCreary Central placed second out of 28 teams in the KHSAA Region 4 Girls' Wrestling Tournament at Taylor County on Saturday, Feb. 15.

The Lady Raiders finished behind reigning state champion and host Taylor County in the KHSAA Region 4 Girls' Wrestling Tournament. The Raider Lady Wrestling Team finished ahead of such schools as Boyle County, Madison Central, Knox Central, Danville, Perry County Central, Bell County, Boyd County, and Ashland Blazer.

Eight McCreary Central wrestlers have qualified for the KHSAA Girls' Wrestling

State Tournament, which will be held at Alltech Arena in Lexington on Thursday, Feb. 27.

The regional results for the eight McCreary Central wrestlers headed to the state tournament are as follows.

100-pound weight class: Shaelyn Watters, 3rd.

107-pound weight class: Brooklyn Sammons, 2nd.

114-pound weight class: Keyonna Perry, 4th.

120-pound weight class: Alissa Chinas-Rodriguez, 2nd.

126-pound weight class: Daveallen Chinas-Rodriguez, 4th.

145-pound weight class: Trinity Corder, 4th.

152-pound weight class: Bayleigh Thompson, 3rd.

185-pound weight class: Kayden Thompson, 2nd.



Facebook Photo

The Rain Came Pouring Down

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The clouds opened up, and it rained and rained.

Over the weekend, communities across the Commonwealth experienced boisterous thunderstorms, strong winds, and flooding downpours.

Despite McCreary County sitting primarily on "higher ground," some parts of the County watched nearby creeks, streams, and rivers rise and swell, overflowing onto normally dry ground. Local Cooperative Weather Observer Rudy Young,

who reports McCreary County weather conditions to Jackson, KY, told the McCreary Journal that 4.88 inches of rain fell in Stearns between 7:00 a.m. Saturday and 7:00 a.m. Sunday.

McCreary County Water District Superintendent Stephen Whitaker said workers opened the floodgates at the Laurel Creek Reservoir in Revelo; however, the water still rose enough to pour over the emergency spillway. Rising water also pushed aside the reservoir's fishing dock.

Local Emergency Management Director

Stephen McKinney said state and county road crews monitored roads, especially those near Rock Creek, Marsh/Osborne/Hayes Creeks, and Eagle/Mill Creeks. Caution signs warning drivers of overflows were placed where flood waters streamed across roadways, and crews worked steadily clearing downed trees. The Big South Fork and Cumberland Rivers burst their banks, leading Cumberland Falls State Park to close its gift shop, overlooks, and adjacent restrooms.

On Sunday evening, almost 700 folks in McCreary County were without power.

With daylight fading, temperatures falling, and the rain occasionally turning to snow flurries, McCreary County Emergency Management opened McCreary County Park/Senior Citizens Center as an overnight warming center/shelter.

The next significant weather event in McCreary County is anticipated later this week when the forecast gives a 45% chance of snow on Wednesday and a frigid low of 6 degrees anticipated on Thursday night.

(See Photos on Page A3.)