

Several lodged in Pike County Detention Center

A News-Express Staff Report

Several individuals were recently arrested and lodged in the Pike County Detention Center. Those arrested, according to the booking log at the jail, included:

Monday, Sept. 22

Angel D. Pennington, 38, Reginia Belcher Highway, Pikeville, contempt of court.
Courtney Renee Smallwood, 42, Right Fork of Three Mile Road, Jenkins, fugitive from another state and traffic violations.
Mont David Bryant, 46, Porter Hill Road, Verdunville, W.Va., theft and first-degree criminal mischief.
Angel Nicole Fyffe, 37, Taylorsville, W.Va., first-degree possession of a controlled substance

(fentanyl), first-degree promoting contraband and failure to appear.
Patricia L. Sanders, 63, Upper Pigeon Road, Shelby Gap, probation violation.
William D. Stiltner, 66, Tug Fork Drive, Belfry, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (PCP, first offense), public intoxication.
Brian D. Runyon, 49, Elkhorn Creek Road, Ashcamp, parole violation.
Nicky J. Bartley, 44, Lykins Creek, Pikeville, DUI (first offense), possession of marijuana and traffic violations.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

John A. Fraganeno, 47, Chloe Road, Pikeville, DUI (first offense) and traffic violations.
Johnny C., Stewart, 57,

East Shelbiana Road, Shelbiana, possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, first-degree criminal mischief, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (heroin, first offense), DUI (first offense), third-degree terroristic threatening, second-degree disorderly conduct and traffic violations.
Crystal L. Johnson, 45, Williams Hollow, Pikeville, non-payment of fines.
James W. Varney, 57, East Fourth Avenue, Williamson, W.Va., failure to appear.
Brandi Jo Conway, 38, Gibson Bottom, Elkhorn City, DUI (first offense) and traffic violations.
Jerrica B. Skeens, 33, Poor Bottom Road, Elkhorn City, non-payment of fines.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Mellisa A. Bentley, 49, West Third Avenue, Williamson, W.Va., first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine, first offense) and possession of drug paraphernalia.
James F. Steel, 48, West Third Avenue, Williamson, W.Va., failure to appear, second-degree criminal mischief and theft.
Melissa R. Howell, 50, Spurlock Fork, Dana, first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine, first offense) and possession of drug paraphernalia.
Curtis Matthew Young, 61, Wise Square, Lexington, failure to appear, first-degree bail jumping and persistent felony offender.
Gary D. Lyons, 68, Millard Highway, Pikeville, first-degree

possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine, first offense).
Brian K. Griffey, 36, South Pochanontas Street, Louisa, DUI (aggravated circumstance, fourth offense or greater).
Lawrence D. Hill, 43, 167 Street, Cleveland, Ohio, first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (methamphetamine).
Robert T. Caylor Jr., 34, Beaver Creek Road, Elkhorn City, parole violation.

Editor's note: The above list reflects people lodged in the Pike County Detention Center. The charges against them are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until, if and when, they are proven guilty or enter a guilty plea.

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new officers like myself.”

Lowe said PPD Capt. Chad Branham will be her mentor in Pikeville as she begins teaching her lessons.

Branham, who was the D.A.R.E. instructor for several years, had to step back from the program because of the additional administrative and supervisory duties that came with his promotion to captain earlier this year.

Lowe said for the near future, she will be teaching the D.A.R.E. program at Pikeville Elementary School.

“I’m still a patrol officer so time is a factor,”

Lowe said. “Someday, though, I would like to see the program expand to some of the county schools, but again, time is the factor there.”

Lowe said around 14 officers participated in the training. Most were from various police and sheriff departments in Kentucky. Two officers were from Georgia.

“The class is taught under D.A.R.E. America,” Lowe explained. “So, this was the closest available class for the Georgia officers to attend.”

Teaching children the D.A.R.E. program is something Lowe wanted to do.

“These children,

from Head Start to 7th grade, are our future,” Lowe said. “If I can reach at least half or more of them with the program, it’s worth my training and time.”

The program has not began yet during this school year because the Pikeville Police Department was waiting for Lowe to be certified.

“There are 10 lessons in the program, so we still have time to get started this school year,” Lowe said. “Children hold a very special place in my heart and I’m thrilled and thankful to be able to contribute to their education in some way.”

Business, advocacy groups seeking to intervene in Kentucky Power rate case

An Appalachian Newspapers Staff Report

Several business and advocacy groups have filed to intervene in a case in which Kentucky Power is asking to be able to institute a nearly 15 percent increase in residential rates.

On Sep. 19, the Appalachian Citizens Law Center, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Kentucky Solar Energy Society and Mountain Association filed a joint motion, asking to be made parties to the rate case before the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

According to the motion, ACLC is currently working to address utility affordability throughout Eastern Kentucky and advocates for energy and water affordability on behalf of low-income residents in the region.

“In addition to ACLC’s specific focus on utility affordability, ACLC focuses its advocacy on measures to ensure that the nation’s transition away from coal takes into account the extraordinary burdens Eastern Kentucky has faced and continues to face as a result of more than a century of dependence on coal,” the motion said. “ACLC believes that responsible transition requires that new energy production and significant new energy uses must be scrutinized to ensure that, at minimum, they are sustainable in the long term, will not burden our commu-

nities and provide community benefits.”

KFTC, the motion said, has been involved with issues affecting low-income residential ratepayers for more than 30 years and has “significant experience in educating the public and supporting both public comments and expert testimony in rate cases.”

Mountain Association, the motion said, has helped commercial Kentucky Power customers make energy upgrades and has identified numerous costly billing errors.

Also filing for intervenor status were the Kentucky Solar Industries Association, Kentucky Industrial Utility Customers Inc. and SWVA Kentucky LLC, a steel producer in Ashland.

“In light of the significant amounts of electricity that SWVA purchases from Kentucky Power, the significance of the cost of electricity to sustainable steel manufacturing operations and SWVA’s goals for the facility, changes to Kentucky Power’s rates may substantially impact SWVA’s operational goals,” the company wrote in its filing.

The case has also been the focus of numerous public comments.

The Kentucky Power rate case is before the PSC under case number 2025-00257. To issue comments in the case, visit the PSC website at psc.ky.gov/Case/SearchCasesPublicComments

WV, KY attorneys general challenge key Clean Water Act provision

An Appalachian Newspapers Staff Report

Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman and West Virginia Attorney General J.B. McCluskey announced in a statement Sept. 23 they are co-leading an effort to reverse the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Endangerment Finding under the Clean Air Act.

In the statement, the attorneys general said the provision is the “legal underpinning for some of the worst policies of the last decades, including the Green New Deal, the EPA’s electric vehicle mandates and the so-called Clean Power Plan.”

Coleman and McCluskey were joined by 24 other attorneys general in sending a comment letter to the administration of President Donald Trump asking for the reversal.

The attorneys general charge in the statement that the Obama administrated relied on “bad science and untested legal theories to rule that carbon dioxide was a major contributor to climate change and was a danger to public health.”

“Finalizing this proposed action is an important step to freeing American industry from burdensome, unlawful regulations and restoring the Clean Air Act’s proper, congressionally intended structure,” the attorneys general said in their submission.

Coleman said in the statement that the decision by the EPA have caused prices to rise and killed jobs.

“The nonsensical green agenda has gone on long enough. For 15 years, this one unlawful decision from the EPA has been the justification for assaults on Kentucky,” Coleman said. “Along with AGs across the country, we’re partnering with President Trump to preserve affordable and reliable energy in Kentucky and to stop the madness that has hiked prices and killed jobs.”

McCluskey said the attorneys general are supporting the Trump administration’s efforts.

“We are proud to stand with President

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