Public access returning after county

computer virus

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WALHALLA — While Oconee County offices have been up and running for a few days, some public-use computers are still out of service following a computer virus that forced a system-wide shutdown on July 18.

The "virtual comput-ers" at the county library branches and machines used by the public for searches in the register of deeds and probate offices were largely still down Monday.

Oconee County admin-istrator Amanda Brock anticipated having a "handful at each location" up and running by the end of the week.

Brock

"Several offices have put in the extra hours and extra work to alleviate the backlog of information we had from handling county busi-nesses com-pletely on paper for a few days," Brock said. "The

teamwork displayed in the last week and a half is outstanding, and the fact we were down less than a week is a testament to everyone's quick reac-tions and hard work. We have no reason to believe any additional data was corrupted."

Staff computers and phones are operational, Brock said, and new soft-

ware has been installed in addition to password changes.

Malware was detected around 3:10 a.m. on July 18, and the IT department began working on the problem almost immedi-ately. Some backup files were erased around 6 a.m. that morning, and all servers were taken offline to prevent the virus from

spreading and causing more damage, Brock said.

The Oconee County gov-ernment offices were able to offer paper services following the malware detection, and residents never lost access to the county website during the incident.