

# County agencies update fiscal court on activities

Continued from Page 1

Flynn said there has been an increase in overdoses. The sheriff's department tries to assist Estill EMS with all these calls. He said they are adding equipment and Narcan to their vehicles.

County Attorney Jason Riley said there has been a lot more drug related activity during the pandemic, associated with unemployment and stimulus payments.

"The courts are still running," he stated.

Preliminary hearings are required by law, but other services have been put on hold.

The court system is expected to open on June 1st. Riley said it will be a trial and error process.

The sheriff's office has turned over property taxes to County Clerk Brian Crowe.

Riley said delinquent taxpayers will receive a letter from his office within the next 30 days. He advised those persons to contact his office to set up a payment plan.

Jailer Bo Morris reported that inmates have declined. On Monday, there were 27 in the jail.

He added that since the stimulus checks, the number of inmates has picked up. He also said there were more going now for domestic violence.

Estill County Fire Chief Derrick Muncie reported the fire department had 110 runs in the first quarter, which was over the same period in 2019.

The department has already made 59 this quarter, compared to 39 the same time last year.

He stated the firefighters are getting their training online which has been set up by the fire commission.

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson commended Muncie on his record keeping and the fire department getting a lower fire rating. That lowered the fire insurance rate of residents within five miles of the fire department.

Hargett Fire Chief Rob Forehand reported his department has made 67 runs this year. He added they assist the county fire department and had provided mutual aid to Powell County on some fires.

He said state improvements on Highway 82 had reduced the department's run volume to accidents in the 3300 block of the highway.

A guard rail has been installed, but Forehand stated there were still numerous wrecks near the Hargett Baptist Church (formerly Church of God).

He said that Highway 82 is still the most dangerous road in Estill County.

Chief Forehand said the volunteers are getting their training virtually also.

The fire department has been a meal pickup site for children 18 and under. The fire chief said a small group of the volunteer firemen have distributed the food to children three days a week.

The department has applied for a FEMA grant.

"Hopefully, sometime we can do more for the Hargett Fire Department," stated Watson.

Tommy Mullen, director of the Estill County Animal Shelter said the numbers are down there. He does not know if it is because of the corona virus or a spay and neuter program.

He stated that last year, they averaged 77 cats a month. Right now, it is down to 27 cats a month. The dog numbers are about the same.

The shelter has received a check from the Department of Agriculture to use in the spay and neuter program.

A free spay and neuter is tentatively planned for June.

"We're going to be doing a lot of spay and neuters between now and December," Mullen stated.

He publicly thanked Hannah Gregory and her family for volunteering at the previous spa and neuter events.

He commented on the 40 animals which were seized last week and brought to the shelter.

"They don't know how to act now that they're getting fed," said Mullen.

Watson said two roads remain to be paved with the \$434,036 in state monies awarded last year. They are Race Track and Lilly Ferry Roads. The roads which were paved include John Rawlins, Woodland Estates, Little Doe Creek, and Pitts.

The fiscal court approved the payment of over \$35,000 in county retirement service funds.

Watson said the county had failed to pay the retirement on the employee for about ten years. An auditor discovered the error.

He said the courthouse may reopen to the public on June 1.

## Cruelty to Animals

Continued from Page 1

Sheriff Flynn said there was not any feed or hay found on the property to feed the animals, except for a bag of dog food.

Flynn said he determined the live animals to be at a risk due to a lack of feed and the malnourished state the animals were found in. These animals were also seized and taken to the Estill County Animal Shelter.

Flynn arrested David Freeman, 34, caretaker of the farm, and his wife, Rebecca Freeman, 37, and charged them with second degree cruelty to animals.

The sheriff said that Rebecca Freeman stated that she helped take of the animals. She said that was primarily her husband's job.

The owner, Ms. Fenger, told the sheriff that she was supposed to have one more horse. Flynn stated the sheriff's department was unable to locate the horse on her property.

Ms. Fenger, 61, was cited to court to answer the charge of second degree cruelty to animals made against her. She is to appear in Estill District Court on July 22. The Freemans were arrested but were released from custody shortly afterward.

The charge is a misdemeanor, usually punishable by a fine and/or up to one year in the county jail.

The county has purchased feed for the farm animals and hay for the cattle. The fiscal court will ask for reimbursement of the animal feed when the case goes to court.

Detective Josh Rison assisted with the farm animal investigation.

## Local Police activity report

**Dustin Fugate**, 26, of Church Street, Irvine was charged with theft by unlawful taking -- shoplifting, possession of a controlled substance, second degree -- drug unspecified, and drug paraphernalia on May 11 by Deputy Brad Smith.

**James R. Adams**, 52, of Hudson Street, Irvine was arrested on a bench warrant May 12 by Court Security Officer Glenn Carroll.

The citation states that while Adams was in the sheriff's office, he was acting jittery. He had a small container with two pills in it, which he reportedly kept asking for them to be thrown away.

According to the citation, the pills were suspected 30 mg. oxycodone, a Schedule 2 narcotic.

**Latisha King**, 31, of Patrick Lane, Irvine was arrested May 14 by IPD Officer Stewart Morris at a

gravel lot on River Drive.

The citation states that She was charged with public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol).

**Steven Scott**, 31, of Rosebud Avenue, Irvine was arrested May 13 at his residence by IPD Detective Hensley on a charge of fourth degree assault (domestic violence) no visible injury.

**Faye LaFountain**, 36, of Laurel Street, Irvine was arrested May 11 by Det. Hensley on a charge of theft by unlawful taking or disposition/shoplifting under \$500.

**Regina Neal**, 40, of Winchester Road, Irvine was charged with possession of a controlled substance, second degree -- drug unspecified on May 14 by Det. Hensley.

The citation says that Neal was a passenger in a vehicle which was traffic stopped on River Drive.

A K-9 was deployed to the vehicle and alerted on the back seat passenger side where Neal had been sitting, Hensley said.

The detective added that when the back door was opened, the K-9 again alerted to Neal's purse. A search of the purse produced a small ziplock bag containing two and a half suboxone pills.

Hensley also served an Estill County bench warrant on Neal for failing to appear in court.

Deputy Chris Coffey went to the residence of **George Tate**, 49, after receiving a call Friday that Tate was in an altercation

with his girlfriend.

The citation states that Tate said his girlfriend had attacked him, and showed the deputy a spot of blood on the tip of his nose.

When Coffey talked with the victim, he said she had blood all over her face. She reportedly told him that Tate put his hands around her neck to where she could barely breathe. She added that he took her to the ground and was on top of her.

In addition to the strangulation charge, Tate was charged with assault, fourth degree (domestic violence), minor injury.

## KSP, city chief make arrest

Continued from Page 1

The rifle had a 10 round magazine with a bullet in its chamber.

Hacker charged Powell with wanton endangerment, first degree of a police officer, resisting arrest, and carrying a concealed weapon.

Sturniolo served an Estill County warrant on Powell for a charge of first degree stalking. Information on the stalking case was not available.

The police chief also charged Powell with first degree wanton endangerment and resisting arrest.

Sturniolo said the officers seized the rifle and a .22 caliber pistol with two magazines containing ten and seven rounds each. They also seized 75 rounds of ammunition for a .40 caliber weapon and 20 rounds for a .3006.

## IPD arrests women for trafficking

An The Irvine Police Department arrested two women on May 11 and charged them with trafficking in controlled substances.

Chief John Sturniolo said that Katherine Turner, 41, of Autumn Court, Irvine swerved her vehicle in front of Officer Jason Conrad on Grindstone Road.

Turner was located on Bertha Wallace Drive in Irvine. The chief said the driver and her passenger were both extremely nervous.

He added that IPD's canine, "Bear," alerted on the vehicle. He said that Turner had two baggies of a brown powder that field tested positive for heroin and fentanyl that was ready for sale. She also had 22, plus a 1/2 and a 1/4, of xanax pills in a baggie hidden in a false battery case.

The chief said that IPD also confiscated from Turner 13 syringes, one loaded with suspected heroin, a metal spoon with residue, a cuticle cutter, cut straw, plastic baggies, a metal pill case with residue, and \$580 in cash plus coins.

IPD impounded Turner's 2003 gray

Ford Taurus.

Turner was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, second offense or greater (heroin), trafficking in a controlled substance, third degree (drug unspecified), drug paraphernalia -- buy/possession, and possession of a controlled substance, first offense and first degree (heroin).

Officer Conrad charged the passenger, Meca M. Harvey, 38, of Stacy Lane, Irvine with trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (heroin) and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess.

Harvey's citation states that as she was exiting the vehicle, she kept reaching in the floorboard. Conrad said during a search of the vehicle, he found a black and pink change purse under the front passenger seat. It contained a small baggie with approximately .99 grams of a brown rock substance, suspected heroin.

Conrad said he also seized a digital scale, plastic baggies, narcan, \$186 in cash and assorted coins.

## 300 Estill Countians get tested, no positive cases as of Monday

As of Tuesday morning, 300 Estill Countians had been tested for the Corona Virus.

Candie McMaine, Public Health Services Supervisor at the Estill County Health Department, said that 286 of those tests have come back negative.

The other 14 cases are pending. She told the fiscal court on Monday that it takes about 24 hours for a test result to come back.

McMaine stated the health department has partnered with local providers and they can test up to 250 people per week.

She said about 2% of Estill Countians have been tested compared to 3% statewide.

As of Monday, Estill and Lee counties remained two of only four counties in Kentucky which have reported no positive cases for the corona virus.



# Estill County Community Tire Amnesty

Wednesday, Thursday  
& Friday  
May 27, 28 & 29  
9am-3pm

County lot in front of the Animal Shelter  
You must wear a mask and unload your own tires!

No Truck Loads!  
No Businesses!