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Two are arrested after child goes missing

Two adults were arrested after an eight year old girl went missing overnight. The girl was reported missing around 11 a.m. Monday. Her nine year old brother told authorities that she had been gone since Sunday. The parents told state police they had no idea where the child was. A male at the residence, Joshua Cartwright, told Trooper J. Hacker the child had asked for permission to go to a friend's house around 7 p.m. Sunday. He had not seen her since then.

Kentucky State Police, the Estill County Sheriff's Department, the Estill County Rescue Squad, Estill County Emergency Management Agency, and Hunters Hound responded to 1950 Possum Run Road to look for the child on Monday afternoon. Following an investigation, the girl was located around 2 p.m. Monday at a friend's house nearby on Trotting Ridge Road. The girl was brought back to her home on Opossum Run Road by an unnamed adult female. **Continued on Page 2**



Colleen Yates
Photo/3 Forks Jail



Joshua Cartwright
Photo/3 Forks Jail

Estill has 1st case of Corona Virus

Estill County received its first positive test for COVID-19 on Saturday, according to the Estill County Health Department. For the past week, Estill and tiny Robertson County, were the only two Kentucky Counties where no one had tested positive for the Corona Virus. Neighboring Lee County had been in the final three, but a week earlier, a juvenile tested positive there. "(The Estill County case) is an isolated case with minimal exposure in the community" Candie McMaine reported. "Additional details about the person will not be provided to maintain patient privacy." McMaine is Public Health Services Supervisor at the local health department. "Our team is working with the Kentucky Department for Public Health to identify and notify close contacts of the patient to protect the health and well-being of Estill County residents" she added. Please continue to help us by following the current recommendations that have been made by CDC and Governor Beshear. Social distancing is extremely important. Wash your hands. Cover your coughs and sneezes. Stay home if you can but definitely stay home or contact your provider if you are sick. "We would like to remind everyone that you can be tested for COVID-19 at any local provider's office in the county. Call the provider and they will instruct you on their procedures and when you can test." McMaine stated. **Continued on Page 2**



Trucks, trailers, and even cars loaded with tires disposed of them Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at the county lot on Cow Creek Road. Prior to the tire amnesty, Judge/Executive Donnie Watson estimated the county had about 40-50 tires on the lot. Now, the lot has an estimated 40,000 - 50,000 tires. These photos were made half-way through the event. Last year, the judge said the county was able to get used tires shredded in Montgomery County by the state. He added there will be limits on the next tire amnesty.

Estill to get County Road Aid funds, but state estimates it could be less

The Estill Fiscal Court met by teleconference on Thursday. This was the fiscal court's third meeting via teleconference during the social distancing. The meeting opened with public hearings on the use of County Road Aid and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) funds. Judge/Executive Donnie Watson announced that Estill County will receive \$1,072,476 in County Road Aid (CRA) funds and \$28,050 in LGEA funds. The budgeted uses of the CRA and LGEA funds are included in the proposed budget to go into effect July 1. Watson said he has been told by the state to expect an estimated 25 percent decrease in the road fund. It comes from a tax per gallon of gasoline, and may vary depending on the cost of gasoline. This year's tax is expected to be lower because people are driving less during the pandemic. The CRA fund pays for road employees salaries, equipment and supplies. Tom Hart, a resident of Old Landing Road, called in during the public hearing and asked for black-top on that road. Hart commented about how bad the potholes were. He said the county graders are out there again and again. Watson said the fiscal court will look at paving Old Landing Road "a piece at a time". On Monday, he said that gravel road is about nine miles long. He added that if it was all black-topped, it would probably take the entire county road budget. (The road is also sparsely populated.) "I'd like to fix every one of (the roads) if we had the money," Watson stated. The fiscal court also opened the only bid received for oil for the upcoming fiscal year. He said the oil is used for cold mix, used for filling potholes in the winter time. Transfer of a vehicle title was approved by the fiscal court. The former county vehicle was sold to Cornelius Arthur during a surplus sale auction several years ago and before the present fiscal court took office. Watson stated the vehicle was never transferred to Arthur. The administrative code was amended to change the policy of employee's leave time. A lease agreement for tower space was approved for Kentucky Utilities. Ronnie Riddell, Director of Estill Emergency Management Agency, said under the lease agreement, KU will pay the county for tower space for their radio system. He added there is a long standing relationship between KU and the county. An easement was also granted to East Kentucky Network. Riddell said that is another long standing relationship. Watson encouraged all Estill Countians to fill out their census forms if they have not done so already. He said money will go to schools, roads, senior citizens, 911, health department, fire department based upon this year's census. **Continued on Page 2**

Obituaries

- Earl Barnes, 91
- David Barrett, 59
- Morena Durham, 51
- Joe Billy Kayse, 85
- Delma Kerby, 76
- Jewell Newton, 89
- Ben Smith, 50
- Jerry Sullivan, 85
- Jonathan Warner, 5

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KSP resumes permit tests

The KSP Driver Testing Branch announced today that it will resume permit testing in select counties where the required CDC/Healthy at Work guidelines can be adhered to. In an effort to ensure the safety of permit applicants and staff, we have implemented a registration process where everyone will be required to schedule a specific date for their permit test. KSP will begin taking appointments, by phone, on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. For a listing of counties currently offering permit testing and the contact information, please click the link on Page 2 **Continued on Page 2**