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Estill now has 4 positives for Corona Virus

**First patient now is virus-free;
two victims had no symptoms**

It was almost three months after the first case of corona virus was reported in Kentucky before someone tested positive in Estill County.

Less than two weeks later, three more positive cases were reported here.

Estill County was the next to last county in Kentucky to test free of the corona virus.

Kentucky's first positive case was in Harrison County on March 5. Estill County's first was reported on May 30.

The health department called that case an isolated one, and stated the patient had no symptoms.

On the health department's Facebook page, it states that one patient has recovered.

Last Wednesday, the health department reported two new positive cases in Estill County, and a fourth case was reported on Thursday morning.

The health department's Facebook page stated that two of the patients were showing symptoms. One of the three last victims had no symptoms.

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson said on Friday that none of those patients were in the hospital that day.

However, symptoms can change quickly with the corona virus.

On Tuesday, Candie McMaine, interim director of the Estill County Health Department said that 654 local residents were tested, and 637 test results were negative.

When a person tests positive, the health department gets the names and phone numbers of each person they have been in contact with. Each of those people are contacted to let them know they have been exposed and give them further instructions.

The health department says it may show different numbers from what Governor Andy Beshear reports daily because of the lengthy process of contact tracing.

To get the most up-to-date numbers on the corona virus, check daily with the health department's Facebook page.

Estill County residents are reminded to wear face masks, maintain social distancing, and wash their hands often to help prevent the spread.

For information on where to be tested, please call your medical provider or the health department at 723-5181.



Sophia Ballard, left, set up a lemonade stand Saturday near her home on Cressy Road. Her little business is located on family owned property, and many years ago there was a store in the building behind her. On Saturday, she recruited her older sister, Maycee Embs to help out. Photo submitted



Early voting continues for any registered voter who has not already voted in Estill County from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays at the former BB&T Bank Building, across from the courthouse. No appointment is necessary to vote. Next Tuesday, June 23 is primary election day, and this will be the only voting location open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. There are 14 voting stations inside and they are sanitized after each use. The deadline to obtain an absentee ballot has passed. They must be postmarked by June 23 for a vote to be counted.

Contractor sought to build 700 sq. ft. safe room at EOC

The Estill Fiscal Court held their regular June meeting on Monday evening with the discussion of CSEPP bids.

Since social distancing began, fiscal court meetings have been held by teleconference. Anyone with a smart phone, computer or tablet can hear the meeting after calling a telephone number and adding a code.

Ronnie Riddell, director of Estill County Emergency Operation Center (EOC), asked the court to advertise for bids to build a safe room to be added onto the center.

Riddell said it will add about 700 square feet to the center, which was the first one to be built.

He explained that later EOCs built in other counties met federal standards to sustain high winds.

The fiscal court agreed to advertise for construction bids for the safe room and to enhance the Chestnut Stand tower site.

Riddell stated the tower was the oldest in the county. The bid is to refurbish the tower building itself, to modernize it, and to make it as safe as possible. The construction will also address a drainage issue on the property.

Lucas Barnes, deputy director of EOC, recommended bids to be awarded.

A bid for a generator on the Happy Top tower was rebid. Barnes recommended the fiscal court accept the lone bid of \$58,191 from Henderson Services.

He recommended that a bid for Prime Mover and Trailer Upfitting be split between two of the three bidders.

The third bid was for a National Weather Service transmitter at Chestnut Stand. The court accepted its only bid for the transmitter at Barnes' recommendation.

The above items will be paid for out of CSEPP monies and not county tax dollars.

The fiscal court passed a revised County Road Aid (CRA) Cooperative Program agreement with the state Department of Transportation.

The court had passed an agreement in January for \$112,000 more in CRA funds.

The new CRA agreement includes \$804,829.01 for the county, which was advised earlier there would be a decrease because of the corona virus.

Edsel Daniel and Sharon Niece were approved as new library board members.

A quit claim deed was approved to Shirley Smith Hall, the widow of Clyde Hall, for one acre on Cobb Hill.

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Obituaries

Dale Wayne
Brandenburg, 67
Michael Barnes, 71
Dorothy Hopper, 77
Hugh Johnson, 56
Manford Glenn
Richardson, 79
Robert Williams, 88

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Drive-by and see Santa!



Drive-by and bring the kids to see Santa between 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon on Thursday, June 25 between the Irvine Fire Department and Main Street Grub on Collins St., Irvine.

As each vehicle passes, Santa and his elf will give each child a stuffed toy.

Back Street Grub will give each child a token for a snow cone.

All participants will be wearing gloves and masks.

The event is made possible with the help of Santa Claus, Mayor James Gross, Chief John Sturniolo and Back Street Grub.