

## School board meets

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Supt. Saylor stated that one thing the district is going to do right off the bat is MAP testing to see where students are at since they haven't been to school since March.

The ceremony that was scheduled for the graduating class of 2020 has been cancelled due to a rise in COVID-19 cases. The board expressed their displeasure of cancelling the ceremony but Saylor said that the district is mandated by the state and there was no way possible with the number of cases on the rise that they could take a chance on holding an actual ceremony. Students will be able to pick up their diplomas at the end of the week at the Estill County High School.

A construction update was provided to the board by Saylor and Peter Fisher. Saylor said that construction on the bus garage should be completed sometime in October and then the focus would turn to the area technology center as well as Phase 7 of renovations at the Estill County High School. He said there are several needs at the high school pertaining to athletics and they would look at those needs in the near future.

A lengthy discussion about a contract between the district and a media broadcasting company was held among board members.

Saylor said that ticket sales have been down to sporting events and by signing a contract with the media outlet anyone would be able to tune in to watch all sporting events that were held for a cost of \$70 per year.

He said he knew that a lot of the games were being broadcast online and felt like people would choose to pay to watch the games online rather than actually attending the games. Under the contract, no one would be able to film during the games other than the broadcasting company that holds the contract.

Board member Donna Isfort said that she had been questioned about the contract by several different people and wanted the public to know that it was nothing personal but strictly business.

## Fiscal court met Monday at EOC

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A bid of \$11,004 was accepted from Wise Radio and Electronics to install cameras at tower sites.

The fiscal court accepted a bid for the EOC phone system. It was for \$12,349.02, which was the state bid contract price.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was approved for the Estill County Board of Education. CSEPP has purchased medical equipment for the school system. Under the MOU, the school board is required to maintain the medical equipment. The board's cost share is to purchase cases to house some of the equipment.

A contract was approved for CSEPP with WSKV for public information. Ronnie Riddell, EOC director, said that a similar contract is in place for WIRV.

Riddell discussed the outdoor sirens with the

fiscal court. He said the sirens are scheduled to be replaced next year, but leftover money may be available now.

The CSEPP program will maintain the sirens through 2023. The fiscal court agreed to maintain the sirens after that program ends.

"It's a good thing for the weather too," Watson stated.

Riddell replied that is pretty much what the sirens are used for.

Riddell asked the fiscal court to allow his agency to obtain a larger line of credit with Citizens Guaranty Bank.

He explained that CSEPP no longer does advanced pay for projects, which necessitates the line of credit.

"We moved a lot of projects forward in the last year," he stated.

Barnes estimated those projects totalled \$1.5 million and the line of credit

was \$5 million.

A situation has arisen because the local EOC is having a safe room constructed and purchasing two fire trucks, among other projects.

One fire truck is costing \$450,000 and the other is \$265,000. With the safe room construction, the costs will exceed \$1 million.

The fiscal court will advertise for bids to sell a 2003 generator from the Chestnut Stand tower site.

Hinkle was awarded bids for blacktopping and gravel, and Hardy Oil Company received the bid for gasoline and diesel.

The payment for part-time firefighters was amended to \$10.80 per hour. Watson said that three part-time firefighters were being paid \$10.55 an hour. In 2018, two new part-timers were hired and were paid \$10.80 hourly.

A service agreement for a dumpster at the Senior Citizens Center with Rumpke was tabled at the request of County Attorney Jason Riley.

Although the center is closed, employees are delivering meals and distributing commodities to seniors.

Watson said the center generates a lot of trash to require a dumpster, but the county picks up the cardboard and recycles it.

Riley did not like the three year contract's clause about liquidated damages.

Watson said that roofs need repaired or replaced at the senior citizen center and at the Estill County Fire Department.

Riley asked the fiscal court to buy a bike rack for the courthouse. He said they are about \$300. He has observed several people parking bikes around the courthouse.

## Telehealth Use Soars

VETERANS POST by Freddy Groves

Use of the Department of Veterans Affairs telehealth video for appointments went up 1,000% between February and May. The VA attributes this massive increase to veterans guarding against getting or passing along the COVID-19 virus.

If you were one of the veterans who made use of the telehealth video for appointments instead of going in-person, good for you. And thank you.

For those who don't know, telehealth is a program that allows veterans to have a video appointment with VA care teams (both physical and mental health) right on a device from home.

Telehealth (known as VA Video Connect) is probably one of the best ideas that the VA has had. The program is so strong that it can handle over 25,000 appointments per day and is hitting other big milestones as well. Two million prescriptions have been refilled online in one month. Downloads at the VA's app store went up 259% in one month.

Additionally, over 26,000 tablets have been

distributed to veterans who need a device to access their care, with the major wireless carriers providing access with no data charges to veterans who need telehealth.

If you're using telehealth and are incurring data charges, call your carrier and tell them you're a veteran who needs the service to access your medical team. You might be able to get those data charges dropped. If you need to know more about that, go online to mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect. The VA is working on restructuring the program so no veteran has data charges.

If you haven't used telehealth, go to that same link and scroll down. Read about which devices can be used -- Apple iPads and iPhones, Windows, macOS and Android devices all will work.

Read the guide at the link and learn how to set up your device, connect for appointments and much more. For tech help, you can call 866-651-3180 Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. through 11 p.m. EST.

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Required notices for hazardous waste were not placed on the trucks to let police, firefighters, and emergency workers know what was in the truck in case of emergency, according to the indictment.

The indictment says when Hoskins drew up the shipping manifests, he said the material was not hazardous. He also misled the landfill about the type of waste.

The indictment says the federal court is seeking judgment against Hoskins for \$127,110 the amount that he made from the TENORM.

If found guilty of mail fraud, he could be serve

20 years in federal prison. He could be given up to five years in prison for violating hazardous materials and safety regulations.

Estill Countians learned about the TENORM in early 2016. In January, the West Virginia Radiological Health Program informed Kentucky Health and Family Service Commission that Advanced TENORM Services, LLC might be dumping out of state radioactive waste at the local landfill and also one in Greenup County, Ky.

The office of Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear declined to pursue criminal charges against Hoskins in early

2016.

The Health and Family Service Commission took over the investigation and levied civil penalties against the out of state oil drilling and trucking companies involved for a total of \$7.65 million.

Hoskins and Advanced TENORM, LLC were also fined \$2.65 million each by the HFSC.

Fairmont Brine Processing, LLC was fined over \$1 million by HFSC.

Hoskins owned Advanced TENORM, LLC through another of his companies, BES, LLC. He personally filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy as well as on those two companies in March 2017.

He reportedly listed

his assets of less than \$100,000 but debts of more than \$1 million.

A lawsuit from the Estill County Fiscal Court against Advanced Disposal, LLC is still pending.

A group called Estill County Concerned Citizens formed quickly after learning about the TENORM to request its safe removal.

Their case against the landfill and the state Energy and Environmental Cabinet is currently in Franklin Circuit Court.

The Energy and Environmental Cabinet announced their plans to allow the radioactive material to stay in place at the landfill.

## Police Activity

**Maria Swinford**, 44, of Turner Avenue, Irvine was served Saturday, July 18 with a warrant for failure to appear in Estill Circuit Court by Det. Sam B. Hensley.

**Cody Begley**, 25, of W. Cedar Grove Road, Irvine was arrested Sunday, July 19 on Broadway by Officer James Marshall.

Marshall charged Begley with driving under the influence, first offense, and no operators/moped license.

**Dale Conrad**, 44, homeless of Irvine was arrested Friday, July 10 by Deputy Chris Coffey on charges of alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct second degree,

resisting arrest, and third degree criminal mischief.

**William Sizemore**, 36, of Witt Ridge Road, Irvine was arrested Friday, July 10 by Deputy Coffey at Irvine Flea Market on Winchester Road. He was charged with alcohol intoxication.

**Carlie Rhea Lynn Dehart**, 18 of Mt. Crest, Irvine was arrested Sunday, July 12 for driving under the influence, first offense by Deputy Coffey.

**Daniel Conrad**, 35, homeless of Irvine, was charged with violation of a KY EPO/DVO on Friday, July 17 by Deputy Coffey.

## 2 arrested for possession

A couple from Estill County was arrested Friday, July 17 by IPD Detective Sam Hensley on South Irvine Road.

The detective stated that he was given consent to search a van that was occupied by Wanda Ray Watson, 48, and Earl Ray Peters, 65, both of Richmond Road.

During the search, according to the citation, the detective found a substance which field tested positive for methamphetamine. It weighed approximately 1.5 grams.

Detective Hensley said the substance was found inside a zippered pencil case, which had "High School Musical" on it.

He added that neither occupant claimed ownership of the case, which was under the front passenger seat occupied by Watson. It was within easy reach of Peters in the driver seat.

The detective reported that he also confiscated paraphernalia including small baggies, torch style lighter, and cut straws.

Watson and Peters were each charged with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine) and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess.

Two warrants of arrest for a circuit court case were also served on Watson.

## New Drivers

**Operator Permits**

Emily Nichols, Jaylynn Henry, Zander Smith, Amber Arvin, and Faith Miller.

**Intermediate licenses**

Dalton Goolman, Austin Mosley, and Casey Edmonson.

## Covid-19 Update

**July 21, 2020**

Tested: 1,051

Negative: 1,024

Active Positive: 6

Recovered Positive: 5

Total Positive: 11

Pending: 16

**A Week Ago**

Tested: 961

Negative: 935

New Positive: 4

Recovered Positive: 4

Total Positive: 8

Pending Results: 26

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## Health Dept. thanks public and asks them to stay safe

The Estill County Health Department wants to thank all those who have called in reporting those businesses not observing the mask order issued by Governor Beshear.

At this time, we have contacted all local businesses permitted by the Health Department regarding the order and the requirements for all employees to wear masks.

We encourage all citizens of Estill County to shop and conduct business where they feel safe and protected.

Citizens may report businesses in non-com-

pliance by phone at 1-833-597-2337 or going online at [www.kycovid19.ky.gov](http://www.kycovid19.ky.gov) and click "view reporting options" in the KYSAFER box where you will be able to complete an online form.

The Health Department asks all citizens and visitors to continue to social distance, wear your mask, wash your hands properly and often and don't make unnecessary trips out in public.

These small actions can help to protect your family, friends, yourself and others you come in contact with throughout the day. Stay safe.



"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."



**Gertrude Jekyll** (1843-1932) was an British garden designer, artist and writer considered influential by many English and American gardeners. She created over 400 gardens in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States, and wrote over 1,000 articles for magazines.

Source: <http://www.gertrudejekyll.co.uk/>