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# The Estill County Tribune

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## Covid-19 worsens in Estill

In less than two months, Estill County has gone from no one diagnosed with the corona virus to 14 positives on Tuesday, July 28.

Of those 14, Candie Mc-Maine, interim director of the Estill County Health Department, said that five have recovered.

Estill County was the next to last Kentucky county to report a positive case for corona virus. The first victim was reported on May 30.

The last covid-19 free county was Robertson County, Kentucky's smallest. It has since reported at least one positive test for corona virus.

About two weeks after the first positive test in Estill County, another three residents tested positive on June 10 and 11.

It was over a month before more positives for corona virus were reported again. The most cases in a single day, four, were reported on July 14.

As of Tuesday, 1131 residents have been tested with 1101 testing negative. There were 16 pending results.

McMaine said one of those who tested positive was a resident of Madison County, so that case was transferred to the health department there.

Regardless of where a person is tested for corona virus, a positive case is counted in the county of that person's residence.

The only county adjacent to Estill which has reported fewer positive cases than Estill is Lee.

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**Obituaries**  
Shirley Banks, 62  
Donna Brandenburg, 68  
Charles Horn, 57  
Jewel Horn, 79  
Danisha Isaacs, 53  
Martha Rogers, 71  
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This is the first year selling at the Estill County Farmers Market for Jimmy Johnson and Amanda Taylor (back center). Also pictured are Emory Taylor and Norah Taylor (front). The local farmers market is open on Fridays from 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Estill County Fairgrounds.

## Overdoses went up during the lockdown

### Numbers decline during reopening

By Melissa Patrick  
Kentucky Health News

Apparent overdoses reported by Kentucky hospitals and ambulance services shot up in the two months after Gov. Andy Beshear declared a state of emergency because of the covid-19 pandemic, and have been on a downward trend since the state started reopening in mid-May.

"I don't want to give false hope," Dana Quesinberry, research core director for the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, said as she explained the data on hospital emergency departments' and emergency medical services' reports of "overdose encounters," a term KIPRC uses because overdoses may be suspected but not necessarily confirmed.

"We are still at higher levels than we've ever been, but the fact that we are seeing that decline over the last few weeks is very important," Quesinberry said. "There is hope that we are making progress again, so whatever triggered the increase is being managed or mitigated in some way."

She said the data coincides with preliminary

reports that also shows an uptick in overdose deaths during April and May. Quesinberry said official 2020 overdose death numbers are not yet available, but "Preliminary data indicates that we have had increases in drug overdose deaths during covid." For April, "We are still looking at a monthly count that exceeds at least anything in the prior couple of years, in a month total." She added later, "We are seeing increases in May as well."

Quesinberry, an assistant professor for the Department of Health Management and Policy at the University of Kentucky, said researchers will need to explore what triggered the peak in overdose encounters and then look at what slowed it down.

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## Police pursuit ends w/arrest of wanted man

Two deputies and an Irvine officer were involved in a police pursuit just after midnight on Wednesday, July 22.

Deputy Brad Smith said he noticed a red 2006 Pontiac which had no registration plate exiting Sugar Hollow Road.

Smith said that through a prior investigation, he was aware that Douglas Newman, 32, of Fowler Road, Irvine may have been driving the vehicle. He added there was an active probation warrant for Newman's arrest.

Smith attempted to stop the vehicle on McKee Road, but he said that Newman refused to stop the car.

Smith, Deputy Josh King and Irvine Officer Jason Conrad reportedly engaged in a pursuit of the vehicle, which at times got up to 85 miles per hour. Deputy Smith

said the vehicle passed three other vehicles on the road during the pursuit.

He added the vehicle traveled onto Wagersville Road almost to the Jackson County line. Then it turned left onto a dirt road until the vehicle became stuck.

Deputy Smith said that Newman fled on foot but he was located hiding in the woods.

Newman was charged with fleeing and evading, second degree (motor vehicle), three counts of second degree wanton endangerment, fleeing and evading (on foot), second degree, reckless driving, speeding 26 mph over limit, and failure of non-owner to maintain insurance, first offense.

Officer Conrad served the warrant from Probation and Parole on Newman.

## A Honey of A Deal!



Kendra Hardy, left, and her mother, Melinda Hardy, sold honey at the Estill County Farmer's Market on Friday. (They were almost sold out when the photo was made). They had both pints and the honey bears earlier. Melinda said they have 11 or 12 bee hives, and this has been their first really good year. Last week, Melinda's husband, Scott, was called upon to remove a swarm of bees which were inside an old home. The family has been tending bees for six or seven years. Another bee farmer was also selling Estill County honey at the farmer's market.