

Citizens group gets settlement of \$35,000

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Concerned Citizens of Estill County have received \$35,000 in a settlement agreement with Advanced Disposal over TENORM brought illegally to the local landfill in 2015.

The award was announced last Wednesday at a Zoom meeting held by the Concerned Citizens of Estill County (CCEC).

Tom Hart, chairperson of CCEC, recommended that money be invested. It is to be used for cleanup of any problems at the landfill following the 30 years after the landfill's closure.

The landfill is also required to correct any problems caused by the TENORM while it is in operation, as well as the 30 additional years.

A discussion was held to decide what agency to make an administrator of the

money because most members of CCEC will not be living years from now.

CCEC will be checking into investment firms, and did hear from a Richmond investor during the Zoom meeting.

A concerned citizen asked that the money not be invested into companies which participate in fracking, because TENORM is fracking waste.

Mary Varson Cromer, attorney for CCEC, had filed a lawsuit for CCEC in Franklin County against the state's Energy and Environmental Cabinet (EEC) over open records between the cabinet and landfill.

That lawsuit was filed after EEC reached an agreement with Advanced Disposal saying it was safest to leave the TENORM in the landfill.

Cromer said that Judge Phillip Shepherd ruled in favor of the CCEC. The case

was appealed but was returned to circuit court.

Judge Shepherd sent the case into mediation, which resulted into EEC paying \$35,000 in legal fees.

Cromer works for Appalachian Citizens Law Center, Inc. and had worked for CCEC without a retainer fee.

Tom Fitzgerald, an attorney for the Kentucky Resource Council, also attended the Zoom meeting.

As a result of the TENORM being brought to the local landfill in 2015, Fitzgerald worked with legislature to get new regulations passed in Kentucky.

Fitzgerald mentioned the radioactive waste was under a liner at the landfill, and those liners have a life expectancy of about 30 years.

Fitzgerald discussed a host community agreement with CCEC on Wednesday.

The group suggested that a member of the CCEC accompany the county's solid waste inspector for regular inspections at the landfill.

Nancy Farmer said the county had a solid waste agreement, but it has expired.

It is believed that Waste Management, a former owner of the landfill, will be re-buying it from Advanced Disposal this spring.

If so, Waste Management will have to abide by the terms of the state agreement to maintain the landfill 30 years after closure.

Corey Hoskins of West Liberty had brokered to bring the radioactive waste from out of state to the local landfill in 2015.

Hoskins was indicted last year by a federal jury in connection with bringing in the waste illegally.

Military license bill sponsored by Rep. Wesley passes House

Frankfort, Ky. (February 22, 2021) - The House approved legislation today that will simplify the licensing process for active service members in Kentucky.

House Bill 277, sponsored by Representative Bill Wesley of Ravenna, exempts the Kentucky operator's license requirement for a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, their spouse and dependent child who hold a valid driver's license from another state when they are assigned to Kentucky but maintain a permanent residence elsewhere.

"I am proud that this bill will continue to make Kentucky a veteran friendly state," said Wesley. "Measures like HB 277 have been passed in 43 other states and will ensure that those who serve our country have one less thing to worry about while assigned here in Kentucky."

HB 277 passed on the House Floor and will head to the Senate for passage in the coming days of the legislative session.

To review cosponsors and specific details of HB 277, please visit the Legislative Research Commission website.

Irvine Council Meets

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Mayor Gross stated he had received some complaints about the streets not being cleared, but he said three employees were alternating shifts and running the two trucks during the storm.

He said that the ice was a huge problem for the employees, but they worked hard to get the streets cleaned as soon

as they could.

He added the city also had to purchase 15 tons of salt from the state and they had used all of it but 5 tons last week.

Rodney Davis said that last fall the council had given him five delinquent tax bills to collect on, and four out of the five had been paid.

Tim Burkhart said that was great, and he

thought they should pick five more and see if they could collect on those as well.

Robin Powell said that they are still sending out delinquent tax bills for the current year, and several of those had been paid as well.

She added they would send out a few more notices, and then those would be turned over to Davis as well.



Lots of trees fell during the three winter storms within eight days, causing power outages and blocked roads. Estill Countians are being warned there is still a danger from falling trees, such as this one near the entrance to Old Fox Road. The tree is uprooted, and is only being held up by trees on the other side of the road.



Electricity has been restored to most Estill County customers of Jackson Energy as of Tuesday morning, but contractors and other energy cooperatives remained in the area until all power is restored. The trucks above were lined up on the Winchester Road Tuesday.

Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

Lee ambulance EMTs are assaulted by man at Marcum & Wallace

A Lee County man was arrested last Tuesday at Marcum & Wallace Hospital after he allegedly assaulted EMTs who transported him to the hospital.

Irvine Officer Jason Conrad said that Lee County EMS had transported Zachariah P. Dennis, 28, of Beattyville to the hospital.

The citation states that when the ambulance arrived at the hospital, Dennis assaulted the two EMTs. He struck one in the groin area and choked the other.

Irvine Police Chief John Sturniolo arrived at the hospital with Officer Conrad. The hospital doctor reportedly told them that Dennis was under the influence of a controlled substance and alcohol.

The officers said as they attempted

to place Dennis under arrest, he started tensing up and pulling away from them.

While they were trying to get Dennis under control, Officer Conrad said that Dennis attempted to bite Chief Sturniolo.

Conrad stated that while they were trying to remove Dennis from the hospital, he started cursing and trying to spit on officers.

Dennis was charged with public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), second degree disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and third degree assault (EMS, fire or rescue squad).

Conrad served a bench warrant from Lee County on Dennis. The warrant was for failure to appear.

Estill Sheriff's Dept. Activity

Greg Trout, 44, of Louisville was arrested Monday morning on Trotting Ridge Road by Sgt. Josh Rison.

The citation states that deputies were dispatched to Trotting Ridge Road in reference to a man who appeared to be intoxicated. He was also walking in the roadway while it was raining with his pants down to his ankles. He was also wearing no shoes, and was soaked from the current rainstorm.

Sgt. Rison said that Trout told the deputies that he was walking to Louisville and had used methamphetamine earlier that day.

Trout was charged with public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol) and was taken into custody.

On Sunday night, Deputy Kevin Shackelford made a traffic stop on a red 1995 Toyota Tacoma on Pea Ridge

Road. The deputy stated the vehicle had no tail or brake lights.

Deputy Shackelford ran a license check on the truck, and it reported there was no insurance or registration receipt on the vehicle. The plate was also expired, and the vehicle's title had been junked.

The citation states the driver, Lester D. Turner, stated that he was taking the vehicle to a man on Pea Ridge Road to have it worked on.

The deputy said the vehicle was not registered to Turner.

Turner, 67, of McKee, was charged with no registration receipt, no registration plates, failure of owner to maintain required insurance, no tail lamps, rear license not illuminated, and failure to register transfer of motor vehicle.

Turner will appear in Estill District Court on March 24.

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