

The First Voice In An Emergency -- Page 15

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Hundreds attend public hearing on NORM

Violation notices to the landfill will come soon; criminal actions may take months

by CATHY DAWES
The Estill County Tribune

Hundreds of people gathered in the auditorium at the Estill County High School on March 1st for a public forum on the radioactive waste that was illegally dumped at the Blue Ridge Landfill last year. The shocking news was revealed to the public two weeks ago after what appeared to be a lengthy investigation by state officials. Local officials were not notified about the investigation until after it was determined that radioactive waste had

been brought to the landfill between July and October of last year. County Judge Executive Wallace Taylor called the public meeting to inform the residents of Estill County about the potential hazards of the radioactive waste and to answer any questions that residents had concerning the waste.

Danny Anderson from the Kentucky Department of Waste Management stated that he had been contacted last year by a state official from West Virginia and was asked if Kentucky ac-

cepted radioactive waste at any of the landfills. He told the state official that it was banned in the state of Kentucky and that was the end of that conversation. Anderson said that in January of 2016 he was contacted by an anonymous individual from Ohio who told him that radioactive waste had been disposed of at landfills in the state of Kentucky. He said that notices were sent out to all landfills across the state and then he met with officials in Frankfort to discuss the situation.

Assistant Director for the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, Jon Maybriar, informed the public that he became aware of this situation on February 2nd. He said that he learned that a company based out of West Liberty named Advanced TENORM Services, LLC had in fact hauled and dumped radioactive waste at the Blue Ridge Landfill in Estill County as well as the Green Valley Landfill in Greenup County. He said that inspectors were sent to Greenup County and Estill

County, as well as the lab where the material was being tested and found that there were several violations in each area that was inspected. Maybriar said to his knowledge that 47 containers of radioactive waste were sent to the Blue Ridge Landfill by a company named Fairmont Brines Processing from West Virginia.

Maybriar described the material as being comparative to ordinary mud. He said that during the drilling process of fracking that natural radioactive mate-

rial is released into the soil and that contaminated soil has to be removed and disposed of. Even though the NORM was brought into Estill County in sealed containers, it was then dumped into an unknown location at the landfill and covered with every day garbage as well as soil. Maybriar said that he was very concerned for the safety of the workers at the landfill who unknowingly were working at the time of the illegal dumping of the radioactive waste.

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Estill Co. republicans chose Donald Trump in Saturday's caucus

Donald Trump received the most votes for president from Estill County voters during Saturday's republican presidential caucus.

Trump received 313 votes or 48.01 percent.

Ted Cruz finished second with 159 votes or 24.39% of the votes.

Marco Rubio was third with 88 votes (13.5%). Tom Kasick received 40 votes (6.13%) and Ben Carson got 35 (5.37%) votes.

Trump carried 78 counties in Kentucky and Cruz carried 42. Trump will receive 17 delegates from Kentucky while Cruz gets 15. Rubio and Kasick will get seven delegates each.

Nine candidates paid a \$15,000 entry fee to have their names placed on the Kentucky caucus ballot. This includes Senator Rand Paul who paid for the caucus to be held in Kentucky. Paul

and several other candidates withdrew from the race before Saturday's caucus.

Kentucky's last presidential caucus was in 1984 when democrats selected Walter Mondale and republicans chose Ronald Reagan.

There was no democratic caucus on Saturday. Democratic voters in Kentucky will choose their candidate during the May primary election.

Over 600 Estill countians voted in Saturday's caucus. The number was lower than it could have been because there was no caucus site in Estill County. Estill Countians could either vote absentee or travel to Jackson County.

Two hundred nineteen Estill countians traveled to McKee on Saturday. No total was available for those who voted for absentee but it exceeded four hundred.



Hundreds attended the public forum at the high school auditorium last Tuesday to voice their opinions against radioactive waste being illegally dumped at the landfill across the road. Above, Michael "Bucky" Wilson got a big round of applause after he gave his opinion.



Former Irvine Mayor Ernest Lee Farmer said the landfill was not being a good neighbor, because the host agreement prohibits the landfill from accepting out of state wastes. The state also prohibits radioactive wastes from being brought to the landfill.

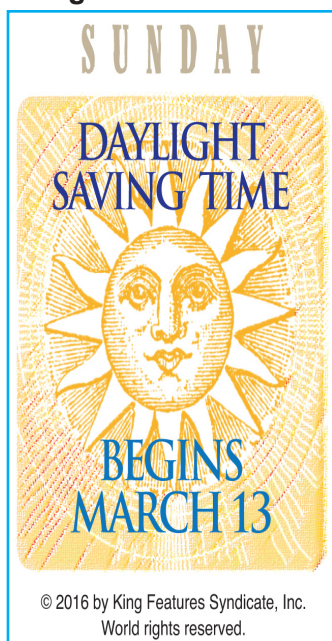


Bob Shaffer spoke about Estill Countians fighting the landfill in 1997 about bringing NORM here disposed of by Ashland Oil Company. The landfill agreed to not bring it. Guest speakers are seated at the table behind Shaffer.



Estill County was one of a handful of counties where no caucus site was scheduled for Saturday. Estill voters had to drive to McKee to vote in the Old Jackson County Courthouse. Only 219 made that drive. Over 400 hundred others chose to vote earlier by absentee ballot. Above, Jackie and Ernest Lee Farmer cast their ballots.

Photo courtesy of The Jackson County Times



2 are charged with trafficking in meth

A man and women were charged in Ravenna on Friday afternoon for trafficking in drugs.

The citation states that IPD Officer John Sturmiolo located Jeffrey Twist and Bertha Lynn Jones in the hallway at 706 Main Street, Ravenna.

Twist, 50, is homeless. Jones, 44, is a resident of Scott Court, Irvine.

Police say that Twist had three baggies of crystal meth, several small baggies, a scale, suboxone strip, bag marijuana, marijuana cigarette, marijuana pipe, 2 syringes, hydrocodone, gabapentin, and a strip of LSD.

The citation states that Twist resisted arrest while he was in the hallway. Police recovered \$214.78 from him.

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Obituaries

- Floyd H. Burton Jr., 58
- Paulene Chaney, 56
- W.E. "Ed" Chaney, 36
- Billy Howard, 87
- Agnes J. Means, 77
- Brett McIntosh, 47
- Lohris R. Newton, 82
- Earl M. Rhodus, 82

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