

**Jay Bicknell's  
Wanderings  
from the  
Woods & Water  
Page 14**

**Estill  
Co. Boys  
Golf Wins  
Again  
Pages 2, 14**



**Betty  
Young's  
Times  
Remembered  
Page 3**

**50¢**  
INC 3¢ TAX IN KY  
0 4 8 7 9 2 0 4 5 5 8

# The Estill County Tribune **EstillTribune.Com**

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## Fiscal Court sets tax rates

The Estill Fiscal Court set tax rates on real estate, motor vehicles and water crafts at Monday's meeting.

The court voted unanimously to accept the compensating tax rates on property at 8.9 cents and 1.5 cents on motor vehicles and water crafts. The compensating rate is the rate which will generate approximately the same tax revenues as last year's rate. The rate fluctuates each year as assessments go up or down.

The county expects to receive \$364,912 from the real estate tax and \$61,502 from the motor vehicle and water craft tax.

The fiscal court also entered the tax rates from other taxing districts into the minutes.

Tax rates from the Red Lick watershed, the ambulance service and health department will remain the same.

The library is taking the compensating rate, and the school system increased their rate with the recallable nickle. Judge Wallace Taylor said the schools' rate is pending approval from the Kentucky Department of Education.

Kathy Watson, director of the Estill County Library, gave the library's annual report to the fiscal court.

She stated an architect and engineers have been hired to remodel the old Kroger building into a library.

The project is expected to be completed in 12 to 18 months

**Continued on Page 13**

## Board recognizes South Irvine staff

by CATHY DAWES  
Estill County Tribune

On Thursday night members of the school board recognized the entire teaching staff from the South Irvine Preschool Center.

The staff had recently been honored by Kentucky River Foothills because 71.5 percent of the students in preschool were ready for Kindergarten. South Irvine scored highest out of all the counties that Kentucky River Foothills works with.

Mildred Brandenburg of South Irvine food service was also recognized by the board and presented with an Estill County medal of excellence award.

Belinda Puckett said that back in May, Brandenburg organized a "May the 4th be with you" day at South Irvine and all the kitchen staff dressed as Star Wars characters and set up a scavenger hunt at the school. Brandenburg documented the entire day and sent it to Frankfort where she received an award. (See photo on Page 15)

Superintendent Jeff Saylor reported that the final tax rate for the district would be 51.6

cents which does include the nickel tax and without exonerations. He told the board that they were basically voting on the compensating rate since the nickel tax had already been approved. The tax rate for motor vehicles and watercraft remained the same as last year at 54.8 cents.

Mr. Saylor gave a brief description about what the bonding potential looks like for the district if the state matches it 100 percent. He was pleased to announce that with the grant that the district received for the technology center along with the nickel tax that they would have approximately \$25 million dollars worth of construction funds. (See Page 4)

A one percent salary increase was approved for employees of the school system. The ROTC instructor at the high school's pay will fluctuate throughout the year because it is based on the military's salary.

The board also approved 20 extra days to be added to the principal at Estill Springs due to the increase in the number of students.

**Continued on Page 13**

## The Solar Eclipse



Rhonda Woosley of Irvine captured Monday's Solar Eclipse on her I-phone. She made the pictures at Clay City.



Only a partial eclipse was visible in Irvine also. Another one is not due for 99 years.



Jailer Bo Morris viewed the eclipse through a dozen layers of window tinting film.



Kelly Woolery used glasses made specially for viewing the eclipse.



The Scott, Burns, and DeJesus families gathered on Broadway to watch Monday's eclipse. They also shared viewing glasses and pinhole cameras.

## Obituaries

**Chester Abney, 77**  
**Eugene Bush, 87**  
**James Combs, 86**  
**Mary Jenkins, 80**  
**Debra Malone, 60**  
**Emma McClain, 91**  
**"Beth" Parks, 44**  
**Beverly Reed, 96**  
**Jimmy Turpin, 74**  
**Katherine Vickers, 77**  
**See Page 6-7**

## Companies filed bankruptcies and motions to avoid paying civil penalties on TENORM

Some of companies involved in bringing TENORM into Blue Ridge RDF have filed for bankruptcies, Blake Vogt, co-counsel for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CFHS) told members of Estill County Concerned Citizens (ECCC) last Wednesday.

Vogt said one company, Neurvera, has filed for Chapter 11 to reorganize. He added that a settlement may be coming.

Corey Hoskins of West Liberty, the owner of Advanced Tenorm Services, has also filed bankruptcy personally and for his company.

"A civil penalty is a non-dischargeable debt," Vogt stated.

Vogt added that Hoskins apparently has no monies or assets, but

may pay a percentage of his future earnings.

The penalties issued by CHFS are civil ones, however a ruling by the federal bankruptcy court could take precedence over the state law.

Vogt added that it appears that Hoskins' attorney wants to settle with CFHS.

Vogt told ECCC members that what Hoskins did was a class D felony, punishable by one to five years in prison.

Attorney General Andy Breshear decided last year not to prosecute Hoskins.

Vogt would like to see Commonwealth's Attorney Heather Combs prosecute Hoskins.

The CHFS can legally only issue

civil penalties. "We don't put people in jail for civil penalties," he stated.

Two of the companies have asked that their penalties be dismissed. Vogt said they are out of state companies and do not think CFHS has jurisdiction over them.

"We do regulate the disposal of this material," Vogt stated.

Those motions for dismissal may end up in Estill Circuit Court.

The trucking companies involved in transporting the TENORM may also get criminal violations from the federal Department of Transportation, Vogt stated.

Kenny Cole, environmentalist at the Estill County Health Department, said that department has not yet received settlement monies

(\$168,000) from the state. The money is in a special bank account.

Cole said some of those funds will be spent on radiation monitors at the Estill County High School and Middle School.

He has already received training on the monitors.

Mary Cromer, attorney for CCEC, responded to the landfill's CAP plan.

ECCC asked that the landfill monitor for radionuclides, which is not being currently done by Irvine Municipal Utilities because of the testing expense.

ECCC also wanted to find out what the landfill's enforcement procedure is when a radiation monitor goes off.