

# Fiscal court faces tough decisions

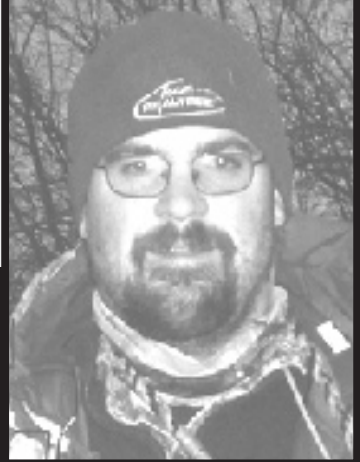
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 Estill's female inmates were transferred from Clark County to Three Forks Regional Jail on January 12. The fiscal court then approved a jail transportation plan which was presented at a court meeting in December. With this plan, most jail employees will be laid off. A few others will be employed by the county as jail transportation employees. Williams said the deficit was not the fault of any employees. Jailer Bo Morris expressed doubts about the transportation plan, but Williams stated that it would probably take a few weeks to work the kinks out of it. The transportation plan

was modeled after plans used by Anderson and Mercer counties, which also have closed jails. Williams said those jails stay within a budget of about \$750,000 annually and have larger prison populations. Williams said that Estill has spent almost \$780,000 for a half-year, estimating the fiscal year budget for the jail will be \$1.4 to \$1.5 million. "We cannot keep having this short-fall. It's not anybody's fault," he said. "The jailer's salary won't change," Williams stated. "I ain't had a raise in seven years," Morris stated. He added that jail employees have not had a raise for 11 years.

"The jail is the biggest drain on this budget," said Magistrate Marty Snowden. Williams gave a brief history of the now closed county jail, which was built in the 1980s to house 16 or 18 inmates. It replaced a jail which housed about 50 inmates. Williams said the jail was never large enough. About ten years later, the state called it a life-safety jail and wanted to close it. The county had also turned down a partnership in the Three Forks Regional Jail when it was built later. Davis said by the county's personnel policy, jail employees will be laid off on February 8. That's when a new pay period begins.

In other action, Margaret Wood and John Isfort were reappointed to two year terms on the ambulance board. Their terms expire June 30, 2019. A request was approved to make the Emergency Operations Center a smoke free facility. Williams said this was because of all the communications equipment. Second reading was given to the 911 ordinance. Water meters which are used for agricultural purposes only will be exempt from paying the \$4.00 monthly fee for 911. B.J. McGee was officially named director of Estill County Senior Citizens Center.

**Wanderings from the Woods & Water by Jay Bicknell**  
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## Snow Covered

If you read my column regularly then you are probably wondering what happened to me. The past few weeks I have had two kids get the flu. Then I got down with strep. Hopefully we are all good now. I am ready for green grass, warm sun, and gobbling turkeys!

good snow has serenity about it. We all have a lot of garbage and junk in our lives. All of us has imperfections. Some of the stuff in our lives is downright ugly. We can carry anger in our hearts. We can hold grudges that last for years. We can be straight up mean.

**Psalm 51:7**  
*7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

All it takes to cover all the junk and garbage is Jesus. Once we accept him into our heart we are washed white as snow. The only way to fill our imperfections and get rid of the bad stuff is Jesus! Jesus can give us that quiet peace if we let Him cover us like snow.

So, I might not be the biggest fan of snow. There is one thing I truly love about the snow. I love how a snow-covered area teaches the power of Jesus. After our last snow I enjoyed seeing the hand of God teaching a beautiful lesson. Let's look at a field. There might be garbage and junk in the field. If it's cattle pasture, there's probably a lot of manure in the field. The field has all kinds of imperfections. When there is no snow all this stuff can easily be seen. Some of it can be an eye sore. It can be downright ugly. A big snow that covers everything is beautiful. It covers all the junk and garbage laying around. All the imperfections are hidden. It even seems after a snow everything has a quiet peace to it. A

For all those who have had or still are suffering from all the winter sickness, prayers go out to you. Remember every year the Good Lord warms everything back up. Green grass, warm sun, and gobbling turkeys are getting closer with every passing day. To God be the Glory! Until next week get out and enjoy God's creation!

## IPD arrests passenger with drugs

A female passenger was arrested Friday by Irvine Officer Brian Cloyd after a vehicle was traffic stopped on Main Street. The officer said he placed the woman in a cruiser driven by Ravenna Chief Ken White while he searched the vehicle, a 2003 Cadillac. The citation states the Irvine officer located a needle cap, three small white pills, six small pink pills, a container with marijuana residue and a small digital scale in the woman's purse. A "weed bong" or glass smoking pipe was found in the trunk, along with an empty syringe and a metal grinder. Another empty syringe was found in the woman's shirt. After she stepped out of Chief White's cruiser, the citation states the officers located three baggies where she had

been sitting. Two baggies had a clear crystal substance and one had a white powdery substance. Chief White had searched the vehicle prior to the woman being placed in it. Nine charges were levied against Jessica Nicole Salkeld, 27, of Ida Grace Road, Irvine. The charges were three counts of possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (meth, heroin, and drug unspecified); drug paraphernalia; public intoxication of a controlled substance; disorderly conduct, second degree; possession of a controlled substance, third degree; failure to notify address change to Dept. of Transportation; and tampering with physical evidence. Salkeld's bail was set at \$1,500 cash. She was lodged in Three Forks Regional Jail.

## Flu Activity Remains Widespread; first pediatric deaths are reported

The Department for Public Health, within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), reports the state's first pediatric deaths for the 2017-18 flu season. "Of the 36 flu-related deaths reported so far this season, two of those were children," said the Acting Department for Public Health Commissioner Dr. Jeffrey D. Howard. "The average age of death of the other thirty-four people who died as a result of flu is 75 years of age," continued Dr. Howard. To protect the family's privacy, the children's hometown, county and gender are not being released. "We extend our deepest sympathies to the families. These personal losses are a reminder for all of us that flu can be a serious illness, for young and old alike. We strongly encourage people to protect themselves, particularly children 6 months and older and those people at high risk for complications related to the flu. Stay at home if they have the flu or flu-like symptoms and to avoid contact with others." The flu can be very contagious. Infection with the flu virus can cause fever, headache, cough, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing and body aches. Persons who develop flu symptoms should seek medical advice to determine if they should be treated with an antiviral drug, which could shorten the course of the illness or reduce its severity.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers these tips to stop the spread of germs:

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine).
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

DPH is reporting "widespread" flu activity for the fourth consecutive week this flu season. Widespread activity is the highest level of flu activity, which indicates increased flu-like activity or flu outbreaks in at least half of the regions in the state. "The most common flu strain identified in Kentucky and in the 36 deaths is Influenza A, added Department for Public Health's

State Epidemiologist, Dr. Jonathan Ballard. "Flu vaccination is the most effective protection against flu," Dr. Ballard reports. "Recently the CDC issued a health advisory advising clinicians that antiviral treatment that all hospitalized and high-risk persons with suspected influenza should be treated with antiviral medications, and that benefits are observed even when treatment is initiated beyond 2 days of illness onset. The flu season typically runs until late spring so it is not too late to get vaccinated." It takes about 2 weeks following the administration of the vaccine for the recipient to develop protection from the flu. There are ample supplies available

throughout the state. Vaccinations are available at Kentucky's local health departments, pharmacies, and medical providers. Many health plans cover the cost of the vaccine with no copay. Another result of the harsh flu season is the number of influenza outbreaks in Kentucky's long-term care facilities. There has already been 49 outbreaks reported this season. The traditional flu season lasts from October through May. DPH officials report weekly to the CDC national flu surveillance system. The weekly report is now available online at <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/epi/Influenza.htm> and is updated each Friday before noon.

## Michael Witt of Irvine is named to President's List

In recognition of academic performance, the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs at University of the Cumberlands (UC) has named Michael Witt of Irvine, KY to the President's List and Dean's List for the fall 2017 semester. To be eligible for the President's List, students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 4.0, receive an "A" grade in UC Engage and be in good

academic standing. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50 and be in good academic standing. Located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, University of the Cumberlands is an institution of regional distinction offering quality undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and on-line degree programs. Learn more at [ucumberlands.edu](http://ucumberlands.edu).

### School Board meets

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 He commented on building the technology center on the high school site, across from the landfill. "The TENORM is buried, and it's buried pretty deep," he stated. He added that multiple agencies have tested the schools and said they are safe. Then he said if the school district had \$60 million, they could build a new high school and middle school somewhere else. He does not believe they will get that in a settlement. Brittany Dixon, Leslie Dooley, Robin Hensley, and W. Reese Pasley were hired as regular bus assistants. Heather Riddell resigned as a substitute bus assistant, and Darren Somerville resigned as assistant boys' soccer coach at the middle school. The school board does not hire any employees, but are notified of personnel actions.

### BODY FITNESS EXERCISE CLASSES


**HELPFUL FOR PERSONS WITH ARTHRITIS, ASTHMA, DIFFICULTY MOVING**

Gentle Exercise and Movement Builds Strength and Flexibility

**BEGIN JANUARY 29, 2018**

**INSTRUCTOR: SISTER LORETTA SPOTILA, RN**  
**TIMES: MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY MORNING, 10AM-11AM**  
**PLACE: Estill County UK Extension Office, Golden Court off Stacey Lane**  
**DONATION: \$3.00 PER CLASS**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

## Americanisms



"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."  
 —Elmer Davis

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## Community News

Mail announcements to The Estill Tribune, 6135 Winchester Road, Irvine, KY 40336  
 Call (606) 723-5012; Fax to (606) 723-2743; or E-mail it to <[News@EstillTribune.Com](mailto:News@EstillTribune.Com)>

### Estill County Health Department

#### WIC Benefits Still Available

All WIC benefits are still available at the Estill County Health Department. We will continue to service your WIC needs until further notice.

**Saturday, February 12th @ 9am**

#### New Hospice Volunteer Training

New Volunteer Training for Hospice Care Plus will be held on Saturday, February 12, 9 a.m., at the Compassionate Care Center in Richmond. Open to teens and adults age 14 and up. Positions open in hospice home care companionship and respite (in your community), Breakfast Club, and much more. Register by calling Stefanie at 859-626-9292 or 888-334-0009. More details at [hospicecareplus.org](http://hospicecareplus.org).

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