

Outbreak of Hepatitis A

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If an at-risk person has health insurance which covers the vaccine, Watson said the health department sends them to Rite Aid Pharmacy.

The health department is working on a grant which will get them 1,000 doses of the Hep A vaccine.

Once a person is diagnosed with Hep A, Watson says the health department attempts to get all of that patient's contacts vaccinated against the disease.

She said that not all of the local patients were hospitalized. She explained that Hep A is a virus, meaning that doctors and hospitals can only treat the symptoms.

Persons at risk include men who have sex with other men and people who are living in homeless shelters and those who are in contact with those residents.

Others at risk include those who use IVs or street drugs which are not prescribed or those who live with someone with Hep A.

The health department stated that they are actively investigating all confirmed cases.

Kentucky is now leading the nation in cases of both

Hepatitis A and Hepatitis C.

Hepatitis A is a communicable disease involving the liver. Symptoms of the disease include yellowing of the skin, dark colored urine, pain in the stomach, nausea, diarrhea, loss of appetite, fever, and fatigue.

Hepatitis A is spread by drinking water or eating food that has been contaminated by someone who already has the virus. It can also be spread through sexual activity and by illegal drug use. The disease can only be detected by a blood test and can be prevented by a vaccine that is given in two parts, six months apart.

One very important factor in preventing the spread of Hepatitis A is to thoroughly wash hands with warm soapy water after using the bathroom.

It is extremely important to wash hands before and after handling food. Cooking foods to an internal temperature of 185 degrees will kill the virus.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact the Estill County Health Department at 606-723-5181.

School Board Meets

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Saylor informed board members that he felt like the bus fleet was in pretty good shape at this time. He said they have purchased 13 new buses in the past four years and plan to purchase a couple more in the near future. He said that the district runs 27 regular routes each day and 3 handicapped routes.

BB&T had reached out to the school system about grants that they have available. Mr. Saylor said that they were not aware of those grants, they would be very useful to use for property surveys and other items, and that those grants would free up money that could be used in other areas.

The phone systems throughout the school district have recently been updated. Saylor said that it was a big cost to the district but is definitely worth the cost. He added that 12-14 new cameras are being installed at the high school to enhance security there. Applications are being accepted for a law enforcement officer and the board hopes to hire someone before Christmas break so they could begin working on January 1st.

Apply for Toys for Tots

Geneva Jones of Ravenna is currently accepting applications for Estill County Toys for Tots.

To get an application, please call her at (859)-749-2489 and the deadline is December 15th.

Homelessness still a problem

Veterans Post by Freddy Groves

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) says that overall veteran homelessness is down 5.4 percent this year, half of what it was in 2010. That still leaves a lot of veterans without a place to call home.

In some states the homeless rate has actually increased. Montana, for example, saw a rise of 20 percent in the past two years. New Mexico was up a whopping 35.5 percent, and New Hampshire rose 16.3 percent.

Not only is homelessness among veterans not completely fixed, but winter is here. Consider whether you can help.

Even though most large towns have homeless shelters, not all veterans want to stay in one. Or perhaps the shelter rules say they must leave during daytime hours.

Your first step is to call local shelters. Ask about their veteran population and join up with crews that go out into the community seeking veterans who need help. Assistance can include bringing them in from the cold during daytime hours, hooking them up with veterans services, giving them warm coats and blankets, or even handing out hot coffee and sandwiches.

If you want to help homeless veterans, keep these two websites handy: The Homeless Assistant (www.thehomelessassistant.com) and Homeless Accommodation (www.homelessaccommodation.com). Their info is accurate and helpful for my state and town, so ideally it's just as accurate for yours. Keep this number in your wallet: Homeless veteran services at the VA 1-877-424-3838.

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Irvine police arrests man for public intox

David Drury, 30, of Harrodsburg, Ky. was arrested Nov. 16 by Irvine Officer Jason Conrad.

Drury was charged with alcohol intoxication in a public place as he was walking on Main Street in Irvine.

A bench warrant from Estill District Court as served Nov. 18 on Randall V. Woosley, 54, of Winchester Road, Irvine by Officer Conrad.

Woosley was found guilty on April 9, 2003 of operating a motor vehicle under the influence. A charge of refusal to submit to breath/blood/urine tests was dismissed at that time.

District Judge William Leach issued the warrant saying that Woosley owed \$174.50 in that case since August 8, 2008.

No bail was set.

Irvine man in arrears over \$35,000 support

An arrest warrant was served on Brian E. Hall, 46, of Cantrill Street, Irvine was arrested on a warrant on Nov. 18, charging him with flagrant non support.

The warrant states that Hall was ordered by court to pay child support, and

has failed to do so since Oct. 30, 2015. As of January 24, 2018, Estill County Child Support states that Hall is in arrears of \$35,017.02.

Hall was arraigned Monday, Nov. 19 in Estill District Court. He pled not-guilty to the charge.

Lee man flees IPD

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During the pursuit, Conrad stated that Tirey failed to use his turn signal four times, disregarded a stop sign, slammed on his brakes several times trying to get Conrad and other officers pursuing him to wreck, and drove in the lane of the oncoming traffic for most of the pursuit.

The warrant charges Tirey with fleeing or evad-

ing police, first degree (motor vehicle), wanton endangerment, first degree (police officer), wanton endangerment, first degree, reckless driving, disregarding stop sign, failure to improper signal, operating vehicle with expired operators license, persistent felony offender, and improper use of left lane.

Tirey's bail has been set at \$25,000 cash.

Damas Farms LLC joins membership of American Angus Association

Damas Farms LLC, Irvine, Kentucky, is a new member of the American Angus Association®, reports Allen Moczygemba, CEO of the national breed organization headquartered in Saint Joseph, Mo.

The American Angus Association, with more than 25,000 active adult and junior members, is the largest beef breed association in the world. Its computerized records include detailed information on over 18 million registered Angus.

The Association records ancestral information and

keeps production records and genomic data on individual animals to develop industry-leading selection tools for its members.

The programs and services of the Association and its entities — Angus Genetics Inc., Angus Productions Inc., Certified Angus Beef LLC and the Angus Foundation — help members to advance the beef cattle business by selecting the best animals for their herds and marketing quality genetics for the beef cattle industry and quality beef for consumers.

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