

**Top-20 Seniors' Favorite Teachers**  
Page 2



**Engineers Band gets set for new marching season**  
See Page 15



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

# The Estill County Tribune

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 46 WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 16 PAGES

## Needle exchange program is approved by fiscal court

After a lengthy discussion, the Estill Fiscal Court voted at Monday's meeting to approve a needle exchange program through the Estill County Health Department.

"I've got mixed feelings about this, giving free needles while people are diabetic and have a shot a day," stated Judge/Executive Donnie Watson.

Mandy Watson, nurse at the health department, stated the program does not discriminate so diabetics could participate in the needle exchange.

"It's about stopping the spread of diseases," she added.

Over 60 cases of Hepatitis A have been diagnosed in

Estill County.

Most hepatitis cases are traced back to drug use.

Watson formerly worked for the health department in Powell County, which has had a needle exchange program for three years.

She added that Estill is one of the few Kentucky counties which does not have a needle exchange program.

Watson said they will give each person up to 30 needles in the exchange program and a sharps container.

Most counties get about 50 percent of the needles back, but Boyd County gets over 100 percent back.

Watson said the participants will be educated on disposing of needles prop-

erly.

"I would rather see a needle for needle. You're asking the public to trust a drug dealer and a drug user," stated Melissa Goolman, leader of Girl Scout Troop 7182.

"At least, hold them accountable to us," stated Watson.

Watson said the community is paying for drug overdoses. When a person overdoses, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responds and administers Narcan. She said one dose of Narcan costs \$75 but most people require more than dose.

If the patient refuses to be transported, EMS cannot bill for their service.

Sheriff Chris Flynn stated that just anyone cannot buy

needles.

"On the street, one needle will cost you about \$5," Watson stated.

Watson said the needles are only intended to be used one time, but drug users use them multiple times, which becomes dangerous. They also share needles.

She added the needle exchange program will be funded through grants, which covers everything but the needles. Those will be bought by the local health department and Watson estimated the cost will be between 7 and 13 cents each.

"Although I've got mixed feelings, I think it is the right thing," stated Judge Watson.

**Continued on Page 13**



Mandy Watson, nurse at the Estill County Health Dept., explains a needle exchange program to the Estill Fiscal Court.



Schools Supt. Jeff Saylor holds up the architect's drawings of the Area Technology School. The Board of Education will be breaking ground on the facility on June 14 at 2 p.m.

Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

## School board hears ECMS students and construction updates

Some staff members transferred, others retiring

by CATHY DAWES  
Tribune Staffwriter

Students from the Estill County Middle School presented photos and spoke to members of the school board about the positive aspects that the Renaissance Rally has had on their education this year.

Principal Andrea Williams said the idea from the Renaissance Rally came from one of the teachers to attend a conference in Florida to learn more about the Renaissance program.

She added that students have to bring their 'A' game to school each day which means they have to have good attendance, a good positive attitude, and focus on their academics.

Williams said that the students and teachers participate in different types of games, and they have given away 350 prizes during the rallies this year.

She said they do fundraisers to purchase the prizes, and in once instance the school sold strips of duct tape for \$1 a piece. The students then used the duct tape and taped Andrea Banks to the wall. One of the students said that was one of their favorite memories of the year.

Williams concluded by saying that students that maintain A's for 3 years get to paint a ceiling tile that will be placed inside of the building.

Peter Fisher, architect from Ross and Tarrant, updated the board on the construction projects throughout the district.

Fisher explained that bad weather during the first three months of the year had put the construction company behind on completing the roofing project at Estill Springs.

The board approved a 31 day extension to complete the project at no cost to the district.

There was a change order approved in the amount of \$24,342.74 to purchase new boards underneath the gutting at Estill Springs. Fisher said that the condition of the boards was not known until they got in there and started tearing things down and most of the boards were rotted.

Fisher told board members that based on current surveys on the land acquisition surrounding the high school that there are 120.86 acres there. The district will purchase the land for \$232,000.

A ground-breaking ceremony will be held on June

14th at 2 p.m. on the technology center and demolition should start on the current bus garage on the 17th of June.

The estimated cost of the bus garage is \$1,957,471.48 and will be approximately 4,800 square feet. It will consist of two service bays, an exterior wash bay and storage space, and a reception and office space with a training room.

The new bus garage is estimated to be complete in June 2020. In the meantime, the bus garage will move out of its' current location and to the city of Irvine and rent part of their garage.

Tim Burkhart said they will also be renting two mobile units to store their equipment and they will be able to lock those units up at night.

Superintendent Jeff Saylor said they are still waiting on news about the EDA grant that the district applied for to help in building the new technology center. He said they are requesting more information so he feels like that is a good sign.

Mr. Saylor said that they will be adding teachers at the high school and the middle school as requested by the principals.

He said that there have already been several transfers within the district and those transfers are made at the discretion of the superintendent.

Saylor also added that he will be going on the radio on June 10th for two hours to discuss several different topics, and he will not have questions ahead of time.

He will not be able to discuss students or former employees. He added that the public did not have the right to know about student or personnel issues.

**Continued on Page 13**

### Obituaries

- Ronnie Barker, 74
- Bruce Barrett, 87
- Viola Bowlin, 86
- Dolores Brown
- Glenn Cockrell, 61
- Betty Ruth Hisle, 84
- Juanita Muncy, 60
- Dwight Newton, 84
- Daniel Rison, 30
- Mary Vaughn, 90

See Page 6

New Obits at EstillTribune.com

### Veterans Memorial

The public is invited to a Memorial Service at Veterans Memorial Park in Ravenna at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 29.

The program will honor all veterans who passed away, living veterans, and those who are serving their country today.

MONDAY



© 2019 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



Rebecca Click spoke Sunday at a gathering of "Falling Leaves," an event to bring awareness to mental health issues. Green is the color of mental health awareness. The event was held at Veterans Memorial Park in Ravenna.