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County, state, landfill do more testing

More testing went on last week at the Estill County High and Middle schools, the landfill, and in nearby creeks after TENORM was dumped illegally in the landfill last year.

Judge/Executive Wallace Taylor said he learned last week, the state was coming back in to test again last Tuesday. He called the group hired by the fiscal court to do testing, and they were also there.

"Every time (the state) took a sample, we took part of their sample," he stated.

He added that Advanced Disposal, owner of the landfill, also had a team testing at the same time.

"Our team took samples at Gerry Flannery's

and some other people's properties," he stated. (Samples were only taken on private property if permission was granted.)

Because there are a lot of complaints made about the color of the stream near the landfill, it has been sampled often over the years. Taylor said the orange color is the result of disturbing the slate rock.

For several weeks now, everyone has been waiting on tests taken by the National Guards. Taylor said the state is giving him the excuse the attorney general does not want to release those results.

"We're moving forward," he stated. "We are not going to wait on the attorney general."

The judge said he will be meeting with County Attorney Rodney Rodney Davis to expedite an update of the current host community agreement.

The city of Irvine received free tipping fees at the landfill under the current host agreement. Taylor said he does not know why Ravenna and Estill County have had to pay. He's pushing for free tipping for everyone in Estill County with the new host agreement, and maybe reimbursement for Estill Countians and Ravenna residents.

The judge added the new host agreement may call for an outside firm to monitor trucks as they go into the landfill. He said earlier that

cameras will be installed that can be viewed in the judge's office. Radiation detectors may also be required.

Taylor said the landfill violated the host agreement when it brought in out of state wastes. He estimated the fine for each truckload will be \$5,000.

Based upon the number of citizens in Estill County and each truckload of hazardous waste brought to the landfill, Taylor estimates that will be 162,000 counts of wanton endangerment.

He added the fiscal court is hiring an out of state lawyer who specializes in landfills.

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Hoarder's dogs are brought to animal shelter

The Estill County Animal Shelter was crowded Friday with dogs coming from Jackson County.

The pets' owner there was charged and pleaded guilty. He was ordered to give up all of his dogs except for four and pay restitution.

The 39 dogs came to the Estill Animal Shelter because Estill County is the area animal shelter for Jackson, Lee, and Wolfe counties. Jackson County paid a \$25 flat fee per the arrangement for each of the dogs.

Dog warden Tommy Mullen said that Lee County also brought in three dogs that day, and one local owner surrendered their dog to the shelter.

"Friday and Saturday, we were hammered here," he stated.

By noon on Monday, the shelter had gotten a lot of relief.

"We've had 25 to go out this morning to rescue," Mullen stated. Five other dogs were adopted.

Mullen said most of the

dogs from Jackson County were coon hounds. A Walker, a blue tick, and a Jack Russell were among those left on Monday afternoon, but the shelter was busy with people coming for possible adoptions.

Counted among the 39 dogs were three litters of puppies. One mother dog had eight pups, but she ran away at her owner's home. The shelter employees were successful in getting another mother to nurse those pups.

The pups and mothers were among those sent to rescue. Pups usually get sick in the shelter and they were not old enough to be adopted out.

One of the rescue groups came from Michigan. Each rescue group pays a fee per animal and reimburses the local shelter for medical costs.

Most of the Jackson County dogs were in good shape. Mullen said they had ticks on them, but he added that ticks are bad everywhere.

The Spanish Club at the high school sponsored by



Dog warden Tommy Mullen stands in front of dog food which was donated over the weekend after 39 dogs were brought to the Estill Animal Shelter from a hoarding case in Jackson County. Mullen estimates there is 400-500 pounds of food with more on its way. There were also dog blankets and toys donated.

Sherry Murphy brought the club's members to the animal shelter and they helped out at the shelter on Saturday.

Mullen thanked everyone for the donations of dog food, blankets, and even toys. The donations came from Richmond, Lexington, Mt. Sterling, Berea, and Irvine. He got a call from someone saying they were mailing 40 pounds of dog food and 30 pounds of cat food on Tuesday.

He talked of fund raisers for the shelter in the future

to make up for a 10% budget cut.

He would like to see the shelter insulated and air conditioned. The shelter used three tanks of gas this past winter just to keep the front part of it at 60 degrees.

On Monday morning, the shelter had no cats. Someone brought a kitten by in the afternoon which had been rescued from a dumpster.

Judge/Wallace Taylor said the shelter has a horse from an animal abuse case.

Democrats will be voting Tuesday for presidential candidate

Estill County democrats will head to the polls next Tuesday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., to vote for a nominee for president of the United States.

They can select from Martin J. O'Malley, Bernard 'Bernie' Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Roque Rocky De la Fuente or uncommitted.

Seven candidates are seeking democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate seat in a statewide contest. These include Grant T. Short, Selius Wilder, Jim Gray, Rory Houlihan, Jeff Kender, Ron Leach, and To Recktenwalk.

Nancy Jo Kemper, Michael Coblenz, and Geoffrey m. "Geoff" Young are on the ballot for the democratic U.S. Representative of the 6th district.

Seven republicans are on the ballot in Irvine for city council. Irvine voters may vote for six of the seven. Those candidates are William Harold Friend, O'Brene Richardson, Glenwood 'Woody' Tipton, Tommy Joe "Tobo" Bryant, Tim Burkhart, Billy

D. Arthur, and Nelle B. Williams.

Only one democrat filed for Irvine Council, and her name will appear on the November ballot. At that time, Irvine residents will again vote for six and another person will be eliminated from the field.

Republicans county wide will choose nominees for United States senator, U.S. Representative in Congress sixth district, 21st district state senator, and state representative 91st district.

Republicans running for U.S. Senate include Stephen Howard Slaughter, James R. Gould, and Rand Paul.

Republican candidates for U.S. Representative 6th district are Roger Q. Brill and Andy Barr.

Albert Robinson and Michael Bryant are seeking the seat of the 21st district state senator.

Randall S. Christopher of Irvine and Toby Herald of Battyville are seeking the Republican nomination for state senator of the 91st district.

Estill Women graduate from Drug Court

Four members of Drug Court received their certificates of completion last Wednesday at the Lee County Courthouse.

Two of the young ladies

were from Estill County.

Kelly Justice is the mother of two, who works full time as a team leader at Golden Corral.

She has enrolled in Bluegrass College where she is majoring in criminal justice. Her plans are to transfer her credits to Eastern Kentucky University and obtain a de-

gree in criminal justice.

She wasn't charged with drugs but with gun charges. She agreed to complete the program because it offered her diversion and a clean record.

"I remember Kelly well," said former Circuit Judge Tom Jones. "Kelly had some big dreams and ideas."

She completed the program in 18 months, the minimum.

"It took me 26 months to complete," said Ida Brinegar.

Ida is the mother of four who also works full time. Her youngest is a six-month old.

Her latest job is in Bath County, so she recently moved there to be nearer her job.

Attending Drug Court sessions is like a part-time job. Brinegar said attending Drug Court isn't easy. She said you lose points for a bad drug test, but you can also lose them for just having a bad attitude.

The Drug Court participants also begin volunteering in their communities.

"If I had not graduated from Drug Court, I would not be who I am today," said Ashley Watkins, a prior year's graduate.

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Kelly Justice of Irvine was one of four Drug Court graduates. She is the mother of two who works full time and attends college.

Obituaries

- Martha C. Abel, 65
 - Mark T. Arthur, 51
 - Ima Jean Burton, 85
 - Ronald Collins Sr., 67
 - Lonnie Marcum, 75
 - Billy R. Wallace, 66
 - Josephine Wasson, 77
 - James Wiseman, 90
 - Lillian Woosley, 90
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23rd District Circuit Judge Michael Dean presented a plaque to Ida Brinegar upon her graduation from Drug Court last Wednesday.