

**Estill Middle
Lady Engineers
& Estill Engineers
Team Photos
See Page 2**



The Estill County Tribune

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 40 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 16 PAGES

Big turnout for County-wide Cleanup



On Friday, Estill residents could take their trash to five locations around the county. Because of the large turnout, some residents were forced to take their trash back home or pay the landfill fees on Friday. On Saturday, the residents could take their trash to the landfill from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Trucks and trailers were lined up along the Winchester Road waiting to get their turn into the landfill. “I want to apologize,” Judge/Executive Donnie Watson. He called the day “a disaster,” but there will be changes next year. The photo above is at the soccer field on Pea Ridge Road. There were more vehicles lined up on the state highway waiting to get in to dump their trash. This was the largest turnout for the free dump day in years.

Inmate from Estill dies at Three Forks Regional Jail



Steven McDowell

An Estill inmate was found dead in his cell around 12:30 a.m. on Sunday. Jailer Bo Morris said that Steven McDowell had been taken into custody on March 22 for a parole violation and was lodged in the Three Forks Regional Jail. McDowell was in his late 30's. Morris said that he heard of McDowell's passing around 1 p.m. that afternoon. He called Three Forks Jail, and they verified that McDowell had died. Morris was given no other details. He stated that McDowell's body was being taken to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's office for an autopsy. Morris stated that McDowell did have

some medical issues. “He was always polite to me,” Morris said. McDowell was scheduled to go to court on April 2 because of a criminal charge levied against him in August 2017. The state police citation stated that McDowell got into a heated argument with Dustin Estes at a body shop where Estes worked. Estes was accused of running McDowell off the road earlier on Elmer Richardson Road where the body shop was located. Estes was shot multiple times. McDowell was charged with first degree assault.



This box of used syringes was picked up by county workers along the roadside at Cobb Hill during cleanup day. Gloves lay near the box which are worn while handling the box. The danger of the needles to the community has prompted the county into looking into a needle exchange program.

Estill's Fiscal Court is looking at needle exchange program

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson announced that Estill County may soon have a needle exchange program. He said the subject was discussed at a recent Board of Health meeting and may be presented at an upcoming fiscal court meeting. “I've really got mixed feelings on it,” he stated. “People who are diabetic have to pay for their needles.” Needles used by drug addicts are thrown all over the county. Watson displayed a cardboard box of needles which county workers had picked up in the Cobb Hill area during the county-wide cleanup. The discarded needles endanger the lives of the sheriff and police departments, ambulance and rescue squads and anyone who picks up a needle. The judge stated that Powell County has a needle exchange program. **Continued on Page 13**

Bounced check on Estill County was stolen and altered

During a special meeting of the Estill Fiscal Court on Monday evening, Judge Executive Donnie Watson updated the magistrates and audience on recent bounced checks. He said the county had written three checks on January 24 to make payments on credit cards. At an earlier meeting, Watson said there was money in county funds to pay those checks. On March 20, Freida Lancaster was appointed temporary treasurer of the county after Treasurer Ann Rogers took a medical leave of absence. By law, the fiscal court could not appoint someone until Rogers had missed 30 consecutive days. Watson said one of those checks was written for \$255.34 to pay a credit card bill used by the senior citizens center for fuel for the van. He added that someone has stolen that check. Possibly two others which were written for credit cards used for fuel by the jail for transporting inmates were also stolen, because they have not been returned to the local bank. The theft of the check was discovered as Lancaster was attempting to balance the books. It had been made out to WEX Bank in Illinois for \$13,700 and some dollars. The date on the check had also been changed to February 1. “The other two checks haven't come back to the bank,” Watson stated. Watson has notified Sheriff Chris Flynn and the Kentucky State Police, which is investigating. He has also been trying to contact the FBI because the crime was committed across state lines. During the meeting, Watson presented a preliminary jail budget for the next fiscal year. State law requires the jail budget be presented by April 1. The proposed jail budget is for \$1,373,440. Watson said only \$54,300 of that amount does not come from the county's general fund. The biggest amount is expected to be spent on contracts with other counties to house inmates. **Continued on Page 13**

Confirm phone calls saying they are the sheriff's office

If anyone receives any phone calls claiming to be from the Estill County Sheriff's Office, please notify the sheriff's office to confirm if it was the local sheriff's office. All warrants and civil summons (papers) are served in person and not over the phone. For more information, call (606) 723-2323 during business hours. If you need to contact the sheriff or deputy after hours, please call dispatch at (606) 723-2201. If it is an emergency, dial 911.

Sheriff Chris Flynn

Retired Campbellsville University English professor from Estill County is inducted into Georgetown College's Hall of Fame



Dr. Robert L. Doty, second from left, holding certificate, was recently honored with induction into Georgetown College's Hall of Fame. With him were his nephews from left: David Newton; Dr. Nathaniel Newton, his grandnephew; Anthony Newton, father of Dr. Nathaniel Newton and brother of David Newton; and Jeffrey West. Doty was raised in Estill County and was a 1953 graduate of Estill County High School. He was a 2008 inductee into the Estill County Hall of Honor. See full story from Campbellsville University on Page 6. (Photo courtesy of Campbellsville University)

Obituaries
Shelia Evanoff, 63
Tina Lou Ann Gabbard, 45
Russell Hurley, 73
See Page 6
New Obits at
EstillTribune.com