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# The Estill Tribune 50¢

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## Graduate gets much-needed vehicle



Bunt Gross, owner of Gross Auto Sales, presented graduate Joe Snowden with the title to a 2006 Pontiac V6. The car was paid for with donations from Gross Auto Sales and a ministry of Southland Christian Church in Lexington. Also pictured is Melissa Neal, Estill High counselor, who has been advising Joe since the loss of his parents.

Joe Snowden is graduating tonight from Estill County High School. This past week he received the gift of a car, but it was not a graduation gift.

"Bittersweet" is how Joe describes the events that have happened to him over the last two months.

His father, Gary Joe Snowden, passed away on March 21 from cancer.

Snowden and a young lady, he calls his half-sister, made arrangements at Toler's Funeral Home to pay off, within one year, his father's funeral expenses.

Snowden has been working at Meade's Do-It Center this school year as a co-op student. He had already started making bi-monthly payments at Toler's from his co-op money.

Less than three weeks later on April 10, Snowden's mother, Marinda Lewis, was killed in a car wreck on Highway 213. She was driving her son's car.

Estill High Counselor Melissa Neal said

that Snowden still owed around \$1,900 to Toler's when his mother got killed.

The school set up an account in Snowden's name for donations. Their goal was to pay for both parents' funeral expenses and any school expenses Snowden would have as a graduate.

He had already planned to go on his senior trip, and he went. He got an offer from Honchell's and an out-of-town business, to pay for his tuxedo to wear to the prom. Snowden said he had not planned to go to the prom so he did not accept the free tuxedo rental.

He doesn't have a lot of relatives, so he also did not send out invitations for his graduation.

The car that was totaled in the wreck was the same car that Snowden drove daily to school and work. He was planning on driving it to Bluegrass Community and Technical College after he graduated Estill.

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## Estill Co. Fire Dept. is rated a 5 by ISO

Some homeowners may see 20 to 25% drops in insurance premiums after Aug. 1

Estill County Fire Chief Derrick Muncy excitedly informed the fiscal court about the county's new fire rating at last Tuesday afternoon's special meeting.

ISO came in January and inspected the county fire station, which was rated 7. Muncy recently got a letter saying the county fire department will have an ISO rating of 5, effective August 1.

Muncy said that rate will only apply to residents living within five miles of the fire station. For residents outside the five-mile area, their ISO rating went from a 9 down to 8B.

"Estill County has the same rating as the city of Ravenna, and we do not have a fire tax," stated Judge/Executive Wallace Taylor.

Muncy estimated the new rating will lower insurance rates for homeowners by 20 to 25 percent.

Taylor said the insurance companies should begin automatically lowering rates starting August 1. He also advised the residents ask their insurance companies if they are giving the discount.

"We've got this fire equipment, and we've never spent

a lot of money on it," Taylor added.

To get a lower insurance rating, the county must install some fire hydrants. Taylor said it costs between \$3,000 and \$3,500 for each hydrant. The hydrants must be installed on 6" line.

Muncy said the Hargett Fire Department is not affected by the new rating. According to him, ISO inspected the Hargett Fire Department two years ago and recognized them as a fire department.

He estimates that ISO will re-inspect the Hargett Fire Department in about two years to give them a rating.

Five employees were hired for the county road department. Taylor said that two days of interviews were conducted, and he said this was the toughest bunch of applicants he had seen in his twelve years.

The new employees will replace three who quit and one who is on medical leave of absence.

Hired were Jeff Tipton, Tim Willis, Jason Flynn, Jack Walling, and David Smith. The judge said that some of the new hires will not begin for two weeks. He added they must give their former

employers a two weeks' notice.

First reading was given to the \$8.7 million budget which goes into effect July 1.

The county will now send the budget to the Department of Local Governments in Frankfort for their approval. It will receive a second reading after it is returned with any corrections made in Frankfort.

An agreement was approved to receive County Road Aid monies, funded by the gasoline tax. Taylor said the county will receive 87% of their funds in August and 10% in January. The state keeps 3% for emergencies.

"We've never failed to get that 3% back," Taylor told the magistrates. Most recently, the county received \$48,000 to repair a slip on Sweet Lick.

The court discussed letting out bids for a replacement bridge on Fitchburg. Taylor said that state now owes the county \$60-70,000 for two bridges the county has completed.

Amendments to the county's personnel policy will be made at the June fiscal court meeting.

## Travis Adams signs with Eagles



Senior Estill golfer Travis Adams signs with Morehead State University with his coach, Rick Benton, left, and his parents, Steve & Selisa Adams.

Estill County High School senior Stephen Travis Adams celebrated his signing with the Morehead State University Eagles golf team on Monday, June 2, 2014 with family, friends and classmates. In addition to a golf scholarship, Adams also received an "Eagle Excellence" academic scholarship. The 2014 senior has a 4.11 gpa and did very well on his ACT. He plans to study pre-engineering and chemistry while minoring

in Spanish. The son of Steve & Selisa Adams, Travis had other offers but liked the atmosphere at MSU. Coach Rick Benton said Adams was "one of the hardest working kids he knew. He is a great athlete and will do great things at MSU." Travis also played baseball for the region runner-up Estill Engineers. He was co-president of FCCLA and is proud to be an active member of Mount Carmel Christian Church.

## Husband is charged with assault of wife

Kentucky State Police arrested an Estill man for second degree assault during domestic violence.

KSP Post 7 was notified of a physical domestic violence at 1954 Old Landing Road, Irvine around 10:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 29.

Upon Trooper T. Robinson's arrival, he saw Charles J. Hamilton, 38,

standing on the front porch of the residence at 1954 Old Landing Road.

The trooper wrote that when he walked through the front door, he saw Hamilton's wife, Patricia, sitting in a chair. She had a towel over her face.

The wife told the trooper that her husband had hit her several times in the face with his fists, choked

her, and drug her by the hair through the house.

The trooper stated that Mrs. Hamilton had severe damage to the facial area and bruising to her body. She was transported to Marcum & Wallace Hospital for treatment of her injuries.

Her husband was arrested and lodged in the Estill County Detention Center.

### Obituaries

- James Cole, 79
  - Brenda Cook, 55
  - Mildred Crouch, 91
  - Vivian Griggs, 72
  - George Sparks, 101
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## Electronic warrant system allows arrest of man wanted 7 years by Irvine Police

A seven-year old arrest warrant from Estill County was served on a Richmond man on May 27 by the Richmond Police Department.

The warrant was obtained by Irvine Officer Donald Sheeks in 2007. Sheeks has since retired from the Irvine Police Department.

The accused, A.J. Combs, 25, was 18 years old at the time and living on Turner Avenue in Irvine.

Court documents say that Combs, two other adults, and a juvenile entered the home of Donald and Pauline Walling on Madison Avenue on November 7, 2007.

Reportedly taken from the Walling home were jewelry, tools, guns, and money with an approximate value of \$5,860.

Combs was charged with burglary second degree and unlawful transaction with a minor. Both charges are felonies.

The outstanding warrant was

entered into the E-warrant system, a computer program. Any officer from an agency participating in the E-warrant system can serve the warrants. Before the E-warrant system, many warrants went unserved because other police agencies were not aware of the outstanding warrants.