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18 PAGES



Estill Schools Superintendent Bert Hensley shook hands with Jonathan Lane and 168 other graduates during commencement services last Wednesday. The ceremony was held indoors because of the weather. More photos from the ECHS graduation are on Page 17.

## Ravenna gets \$843,000 to build 8 new homes and renovate two more

Eight families in Ravenna will be getting new homes. Another two families will have their homes renovated.

Mayor Estine Tipton announced at Monday's council meeting the city has received a small city community block development block grant for \$843,000 to build and renovate the homes.

Bryan Kirby said this was the only project like this that was funded this year in Kentucky. He added the state is getting away from rehabbing individual homes "so we need to hit the ground running."

Ravenna will be advertising for attorneys, surveyors, demo contractors, building contractors, a project administrator, and other needed professionals.

Kirby said if the bids come in too high, the city will re-bid. The grant will include the costs of advertising for specialists.

"The block grant is there to pay for everything," Kirby said.

Although the homes will be built free, the homeowners will have a mortgage. Kirby said after five years the mortgage is forgiven.

He estimated work will begin on the first round of houses in September or October. Environmental assessments must be completed, and Kirby said two or three houses lie within the flood plain.

He said the residents were chosen for the project, according to their needs. Kirby stated they looked at the need of an elderly person for handicapped baths and ramps,

families with children, and the overall condition of the home.

Kirby added that if a home which was selected for project is vacant now, it will be disqualified. The residents must prove they have lived in the home for the past year.

"We're not going to build eight houses at once," Kirby stated.

He said this allows for local, small contractors to bid on the project. He explained that if all eight new homes were bid at once, a large firm from Lexington or Louisville would be doing the work.

"I should call this the Elm Street project," Kirby stated, because most of the houses to be rebuilt or renovated are on Elm Street.

Property addresses included in the project include 302 Holly Street, 303 Elm, 408 Elm, 606 Elm, 715 Elm, 804 Elm, 811 Elm, 801 Poplar, 300 6th Street, and 308 7th Street.

The council then gave first reading to the 2014-2015 budget. The city has budgeted \$288,606 in its general fund, \$15,000 in state road aid, \$500 in the LGEA fund, \$23,000 for the fire department and \$843,000 for the Community Development Block Grant.

After the financial, police, and fire reports were approved, a lengthy discussion ensued over a contract between the school board and the city for the school resource officer.

The mayor said the school system will pay \$25,000 for Ravenna Officer James Gross to work 170 days, as well as his fuel for his vehicle.

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## Irvine Fire Department gets new rating of a "3"

Irvine got its new ISO rating, and it was probably lower than the city had expected.

Effective September 1, Fire Chief Tony Murphy told the council the city of Irvine will have a rating of a 3.

"It's almost unbelievable that we could be a Class 3. This is bragging rights," Murphy said at Monday's

meeting.

He said that Richmond and Winchester are rated 3 with their multimillion dollar budgets.

He added that only 30 fire departments in Kentucky are rated a Class 3, and 2,400 all over the United States.

When ISO came to the Irvine Fire Department two years ago, they raised the city's rate from a 4 to a 5.

Murphy said that some residents complained their homeowners' insurance was raised \$200 because of the higher rating.

"We took the blame for it," he stated.

Murphy suggested the homeowners call their insurance companies back and ask for the premiums be reduced.

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Eric Baker, left, Estill Extension Agent, looks on as Rick Durham, far right, Consumer Horticulturist Special at UK, discusses gardening with a resident of Mt. Crest. Many of the residents are growing a garden for the first time. Story is on Page 4.

## Andrew Witt signs with Patriots



Senior Estill soccer player Andrew Witt signs with University of the Cumberland with his coach, Tim Tipton, seated left, and his parents, Lori and Greg Witt. Standing are ECHS principal Blain Click and Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Arthur Ballard.

Michael Andrew Witt, a 2014 graduate of Estill County High School, signed a letter last Tuesday afternoon to play soccer at the University of the Cumberland.

Witt said he will be majoring in biology/pre-med at the university this fall. He has started for four years on the high school soccer team, coached by Tim Tipton.

Assistant principal and athletic director Arthur Ballard said that Witt was the captain of the soccer team the last two years. Witt was also named to the All District and All Regional teams the last two years.

Witt's athletic scholarship is worth \$8,000. He also received an academic scholarship to the University of Cumberland worth \$80,000 over four years.

He has received a \$2,000 Jackson Energy Scholarship, Marcum & Wallace Hospital Dr. Terry Scholarship worth \$500, the US Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award, and ECHS 30+ ACT Club award.

Witt was also offered academic scholarships to ECU, MSU, Transylvania

University, Lindsey Wilson, UK, and Centre.

He graduated in the top of his class with a 4.6 weighted grade point average. During his junior and senior years at Estill, Witt earned 27 credit hours for college classes.

Ballard said that Witt is the third Estill soccer player to receive a scholarship in recent years. Chris Gill went to Berea, and Matthew Bonny went to the University of Cumberland.

Colleges are also expressing an interest in two more of Estill's soccer players.

Witt started playing soccer with the U-10 league (under 10 years of age). He has played soccer with the Blue Grass Soccer Club in Versailles for the past eight years. His club soccer team was a state semi-finalist this year.

Ballard encouraged Estill's other soccer playing students to work as hard as Witt has.

The University of Cumberland had an overall record of 8-8-1 last season. The Patriots finished fourth in the Mid American Conference.

### Obituaries

Eula Bailey, 90  
 Martha Baxter, 74  
 Joann Hinds, 48  
 Lois Lainhart, 78  
 Virgil Patrick, 68  
 Arlene Worrell, 83

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## Deputy needs information on Kiskey Branch burglary

A burglary was reported May 30 at the residence of Doug Isaac on Kiskey Branch Road, Irvine. It is being investigated by Deputy Randy Farthing.

Isaacs was not at home when someone entered his residence and removed a 39" television set, lap top, tablet, corded sawsaw, phone box, miscellaneous jewelry and watches. The list of stolen items continues to be added to as more items are discovered missing.

According to the report, the perpetrator left the home through a back door and entered a creek. The person then came out of the creek at a trailer next door.

Farthing's report says that Isaacs also owned the trailer. The tenant was moving out that day. The tenant stated that she did not see anything.

Anyone with information on this burglary is asked to call Deputy Farthing at 723-2323.



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