

KY 1645 to be closed May 10-30

Curve revision safety improvement planned near Estill County Golf Club

JACKSON, Ky. – Drivers who use KY 1645 (Kirkland Avenue/Old Pike) near the Estill County Golf Club just outside Ravenna will need to find an alternate route for most of May, as work takes place on a safety project to revise a curve near the golf course.

The road will be closed between milepoints 1.7 and 1.8 from Monday, May 10, until Sunday, May 30. Access to the golf course will remain from the Cow Creek side of KY 1645.

A signed detour involving KY 52 and KY 1571 will be posted. Vehicles less than 11 feet, 2 inches in height can use the one-lane railroad underpass on KY 1571 to bypass the closure. Vehicles exceeding that height will have to use KY 52 across Tipton Ridge, which is the marked detour.

Signs will be posted in advance of the closed route to alert drivers to necessary detours.



New federal guidelines will let almost all providers prescribe buprenorphine for opioid-use disorder

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said Tuesday that it will allow most medical providers to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid-use disorder without being trained and getting a waiver.

“For years, many addiction physicians and public health advocates have argued that the ‘X-waiver,’ as the special buprenorphine license is known, poses a barrier to basic care for patients with opioid addiction,” Lev Facher reports for Stat. “Many have argued that if a doctor can prescribe potentially addictive prescription pain drugs, they should also be able to prescribe the medicine used to treat the addiction.”

Assistant Secretary for Health Rachel Levine said in the press release that increasing overdose deaths, especially during the pandemic, show the need for more access to medication-assisted treatments.

Rural patients seeking such therapy can have a hard time accessing it because of transportation issues and the relative lack of qualified prescribers.

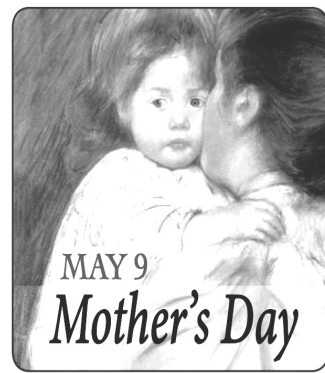
But buprenorphine can be prescribed for a month at a time and taken at home, meaning rural patients don’t have to travel so much, and can easily get it even at mobile clinics.

About 40 percent of U.S. counties don’t have a health-care who is ap-

proved to prescribe buprenorphine, an active ingredient in Suboxone, the preferred drug in medication-assisted treatment for substance-use disorder, according to a federal report.

“The move comes amid a worse-than-ever drug overdose crisis, which has taken a dire turn amid the Covid-19 pandemic,” Facher reports. “More than 87,000 Americans died of overdoses during the 12-month period that ended in September 2020, according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control. Data for the full 2020 calendar year isn’t available yet, but most addiction policy officials expect the death toll will climb even higher.”

Rock Fill Needed
American Legion Post 79 on Millers Creek Road is in need of rock (no trash) to fill in a slip. The Legion has obtained a state permit. For more information, please call Ralph Martin at (606) 723-3149.



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Irvine Police Activity

Christopher J. Epperson, 26, of Pea Ridge Road, Irvine was arrested on a Scott County warrant for failure to appear on May 2. IPD Officer James Marshall served the warrant on Epperson on S. Court Street in Irvine.

Lucas S. Decker, 25, Rockaway Road, Irvine was arrested April 30 by Officer Marshall at Northwood Drive in Irvine.

The citation states that Decker was at a residence where police received a complaint of illegal drug activity.

Officer Marshall stated that Decker was manifestly under the influence of narcotics and stated that he was going to move his truck. Decker left the apartment, and Marshall arrested him in the breezeway.

During a search of Decker, the citation states, the Irvine officer found three 10mg oxycodone pills in Decker’s change pocket. A digital scale fell out of his jeans pant leg.

Marshall charged Decker with public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, drug paraphernalia -- buy/possess, and prescription of a controlled

substance not in proper container, first offense.

Officer Jason Conrad served a Lee County warrant for failure to appear on **Natasha Rogers**, 33, of Wisemantown Road, Irvine. The arrest was made at the Estill County Jail.

Four Estill County warrants were executed on **Lily Hall**, 36, of Broadway, Irvine on April 27, by Officer Doc Morris. The charge on each warrant was theft by deception -- including cold checks under \$500.

Shelleana Stone, 36, of West Chamberlain Branch and **Charles J. Hamilton**, 44, of Main Street, Irvine were arrested by the Irvine Police Department on April 26 on West Chamberlain Branch.

Stone was served by Officer Doc Morris with an Estill County warrant for failure to appear.

Officer Jason Conrad served an Estill County indictment warrant on Hamilton. The indictment charges Hamilton with trafficking in a controlled substance, second or greater offense (heroin), drug paraphernalia -- buy/possess, and persistent felony offender.



Blackberries are now blooming, which means the blackberry winter is coming soon. Frosts, freezes, and even snowflakes can be seen during blackberry winters.

Steps to take when applying with FEMA

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Due to the COVID-19 nationwide emergency and the need to protect the safety and health of all Americans, some FEMA inspections may be conducted remotely.

For remote inspections, FEMA inspectors will contact applicants by phone to answer questions about the type and extent of damage sustained. Remote inspections provide a new way of evaluating damage; it is comparable to traditional, in-person inspections and expedites the delivery of recovery assistance to survivors based on their eligi-

bility.

Survivors with minimal damage who can live in their homes will not automatically be scheduled for a home inspection when applying for FEMA assistance.

Instead, they will receive a letter from FEMA explaining that they may call the FEMA Helpline to request an inspection if they find significant disaster-caused damage to their home after they have applied.

If you have any questions, you can always contact the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. For TTY call 800-462-7585.

Fiscal court meeting

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Watson said the cost to repair the system is expected to exceed the bid amount of \$30,000.

One side of the courthouse has not had heat or air for several years. The state sent an engineer who recommended a Lexington heating and air firm.

“This system has been messed up a long time,” Watson stated.

He added the county has spent thousands and thousands of dollars to no avail.

The emergency declaration allowed the heating and air firm to begin their work immediately.

Watson announced that surplus items will be sold through an auction on govdeals.com. The list includes oil stor-

age tanks and used sheriff’s vehicles.

The judge stated that it will also include furniture and chairs which were in the former BB&T Bank building.

A short executive session was held for pending litigation. No action was taken.

Watson announced the county had made the last payment of \$419,072.32 on Friday. It was a payment on a \$714,000 loan as the result of flooding in 2019.

The fiscal court had hired a Lee County firm to install steel for breaks in road pavements. Then Hinkles paved those breaks. The loan was to pay those contractors while waiting on FEMA money.

The judge said the county has now received most of the money due them on the roads from FEMA.

Congratulations Class of 2021!



The Estill County Tribune will be printing a special section with photos of the 2021 ECHS and home-school graduates on Wednesday, May 26. Please submit color photos of graduates to news@estilltribune.com for the best print format by May 19. Thank you!