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The Estill County Tribune **EstillTribune.Com**

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 42 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 18 PAGES



Jailer Bo Morris and Deputy Jailers Chad Smith, Billy Miller, and Tammy McGee listened during Monday's fiscal court meeting about the future of the Estill County Jail. Sitting behind the jail staff were Estill High students attending the meeting for a class on government.

Inmate is charged with escape after leaving his jail cell

An inmate at the Estill County Detention Center never left the jail on Saturday, but he was charged with escape anyway. A citation issued by Irvine Officer Sam Hensley said the inmate, Donald Fields, 54, began throwing items in his jail cell. It says Fields became unruly after jail staff told him he had to wait to have the door flap to his cell opened. Deputy Jailer David King opened the cell and started removing items from the cell. The citation states that Fields ran past King. He left the cell and went into an unsecured area of the jail. King reportedly tried to apprehend Fields, who began pushing and kicking him. Irvine Officer Hensley said that King discharged pepper spray in an attempt to subdue Fields. He added that Fields made several threats to King saying, "I'm gonna' kill you." A weapon fashioned from a piece of a drain cover was allegedly recovered from Fields' cell.

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Closing the jail is recommended

The Estill Fiscal Court learned Monday that a jail committee has recommended closing the Estill County Jail. The committee has been meeting about six to eight months and looked at several different options. County Attorney Rodney Davis said they looked at constructing a new facility, keeping the present facility open, and outsourcing but contracting with only one facility to handle Estill prisoners. "We plan to close the jail down and house all our prisoners at one facility," Davis stated. At Monday's fiscal court meeting, it sounded like the

closure was several years away. Davis said no one wants to construct a new jail for financial reasons, possibly resulting from a declining state inmate population. He added that some area jails are struggling to make their construction payments. "All jails are going in the hole," stated Magistrate Darrell Johnson. Davis said that Madison County is going to be building a new facility. That may be the detention center where Estill inmates will go. One of the committee's main concerns was the loss of jobs. Davis suggested the

county allow them to transfer to other departments if qualified. Jailer Bo Morris said the facility has nine full time employees and four part-time. He said if the jail is closed, seven full time employees would still be needed to transport the inmates to other counties. Kenny Cole, health department environmentalist who served on the committee, said it would save the county on medical costs. The county would still be responsible for their inmates' medical treatment, but the contracting jail would have a doctor or nurse practitioner on call which would save on

transportation to a doctor or hospital. Deputy Jailer Chad Smith said that inmates appearing in court would still need to have access to breakfast and lunch. Law enforcement would need to have access to breath-alyzer machines. Magistrate Gerald Rader said he and the public wanted to see a work release program. Davis said currently there is a felony heavy mix of inmates who are not eligible for a work release program. Morris said the jail has about 45 inmates for an average population.

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County can implement penalties over NORM

At Monday's fiscal court meeting, County Attorney Rodney Davis said he has received a lot of questions about TENORM which was dumped illegally at the local landfill. He stated he cannot answer the questions because of an ongoing criminal investigation. Judge Executive Wallace Taylor said the county could go ahead and implement penalties. "As a county government, we can take whatever action we want to," he stated. He had stated earlier the county was waiting on the results from tests taken by the National Guards about a month ago. "This is a long term major impact," he stated. "This one is not going away for a while." Magistrate Darrell Johnson said he was surprised with a lack of support against NORM from Madison and Fayette counties. Those two counties draw water downstream from the landfill. Davis said he will be meeting with the state attorney general this week.

This weekend in downtown Irvine

26th Annual Mountain Mushroom Festival

The 26th annual Mountain Mushroom Festival will reflect the theme of "Pride in Community", during the weekend of April 23-24 in Irvine. Mushroom activities will include a mushroom market, cook-off, cake decorating contest, educational panels on local mushroom hunting, interviews with hunters on the narrative stage, natural habitat terrarium for displaying the native morel, morel/shiitake/oyster cooking demonstrations, prizes for most and largest mushroom, fungus 5K & 2K run/walk, parade, window decorating contest, and sale of festival t-shirts. Agate activities highlight the world renown Kentucky

Agate only found in the local area in the world. Pre-festival activities include agate hunts in the creeks of Estill County. An Agate, Rock, Gem, and Mineral Show will feature agates, gems, mineral, fossils, rock displays, and educational panels on KY agates. Local school children will attend the show as an educational activity. Arts and crafts are promoted through vendor booths, craft demonstrations and display, Estill County quilt trail display, and Irvine-Ravenna Woman's club middle school/high school arts show. The local heritage is highlighted through forestry and Fitchburg Furnace displays,

and Estill County Historical & Genealogical Society's museum. A new event is the Speedy Spore River Run canoe/kayak paddle event on the KY River. Entertainment on the grandstand will include a variety of groups performing different genres of music, jump rope team, cloggers, and gymnastic team. Other entertainment will include children's games, rock climbing wall, exotic animal display, Shriners Train and inflatables. A new attraction for the children will be a Kids Zone organized through Estill Development Alliance. Other activities will be the Masonic Lodge Pancake Breakfast, Car Show, Ant-

tique Gas Engine & Tractor show, Miss Mushroom Pageant, Marcum & Wallace Hospital health screenings, Lions Club Vision Screening, Photography Contest, and food court. **Contact information:** E-mail: mushroomfestival@irvineonline.net Website: www.mountainmushroomfestival.org Facebook: Like us on Facebook Telephone: 606 723-1233 or 723-2554 Address: Mountain Mushroom Festival, Irvine City Hall, 101 Chestnut St., Irvine, Ky. 40336 Admission to the festival is free. All events are handicapped accessible and open to the public.

MM Festival Street Closings, Parking, and Guidelines

Street Closings
The following streets in Irvine and Ravenna will be closed at certain times during the festival due to the various events being held.

- Broadway from Main Street to Estill Avenue, Friday, April 22, 5 p.m. - Sunday, April 24, 6 p.m.
- Court Street from River Drive to Church Street, Friday, April 22, 5 p.m. - Sunday, April 24, 6 p.m.
- Broadway from 8th Street in Ravenna to Estill Avenue in Irvine, Sat., April 22, 9 - 10 a.m.
- River Drive will have street cones, from Court Street to 8th Street in Ravenna, Sat., April 23, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- Mack Street, Sat., April 25, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Guidelines

- Admission to the festival is free and all events are open to the public.
- Portable toilets will be available for public use at several locations on Broadway and behind the Courthouse. All portable toilets will have hand sanitizer cleaner available. An accessible portable toilet will be available in the lot behind the Courthouse.
- All events are handicapped accessible. Handicapped accessible parking spaces will be available on the public streets and in parking lots.
- No bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, or scooters will be allowed in the festival area.
- No animals please.

Festival Parking Areas
Parking areas will be available at the following:

- City streets
- Irvine United Methodist Church, 243 Main St., Irvine
- IrvineFirstChurchofGod, 199Broadway, Irvine
- First Christian Church, 270 Main St., Irvine
- Citizen's Guaranty Bank, 25 River Drive, Irvine

Obituaries

- Kelvin Johnson, 48
- Bertha Mayse, 88
- Edna Frances Pendergrass, 90
- Garnie Walters, 86
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The Fungi "Fun-Guys," James Morgan and Cameron White will be performing on the Grandstand of the Mushroom Festival on Saturday.