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County tables jail operating procedures

by CATHY DAWES
The Estill Co. Tribune

The Estill County Fiscal Court met in special session on Tuesday, December 27th to continue its' discussion about what should happen with the Estill County jail. Magistrate Gerald Rader presented a list of items that he thought should be required to operate and maintain the jail.

Some of those requirements included only allow-

ing part-time employees to work on holidays, implementing an inmate work program, contract an on call nurse to reduce medical expenses, limit the number of employees per shift, report to the fiscal court each month, and purchase packaged meals from an outside source for the inmates only.

Rader said that employees and any officers who were at the jail would have to purchase their own meals

and he wanted these things to go into effect immediately.

"Closing the jail is not the answer for this county in my opinion," added Rader.

Bo Morris said that the jail operates with very few people as it is and he feels like they are being judged just like a criminal.

County Judge Executive Wallace Taylor told Morris that the jail gets an allotment from the state each year and

the county cannot continue to fund the jail.

Morris asked Taylor where the funds come from to purchase new fire trucks and other items. Taylor responded by saying that they apply for grants to purchase items of that nature and that he would be glad to help him find grant money for the jail as well.

Deputy Jailer Billy Miller spoke up and said that as far as the inmate work

program was concerned that it was against the law to require inmates to work while they were awaiting their sentence. He said that ninety percent of the current inmates are incarcerated due to drug charges and have not been sentenced yet and he didn't think it was a good idea to spend money on a work program when no one would be allowed to participate in it. Miller said that in the past inmates were

allowed to go out with the county road department and pick up garbage but they are not allowed to do that anymore.

Miller also said that they were understaffed at the jail and had been looking for a part time employee for several months. He said that most people that applied for the job had a criminal record and weren't able to work there.

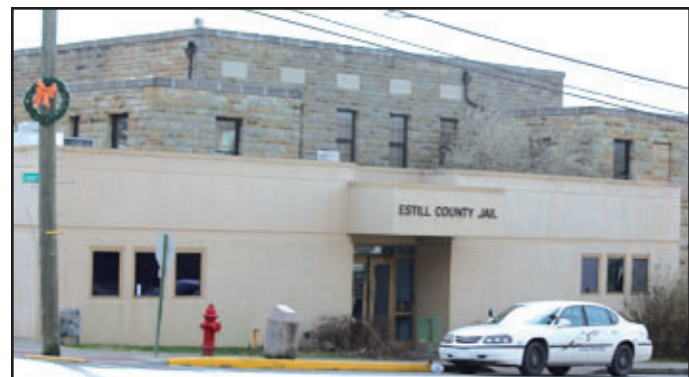
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Bryce Brinegar helped his dad, Brad, take down a nativity scene at their home Monday at their home on Third Street in Ravenna.

Proposed Jail Operating Procedures

- Only Part-time employees work holidays
- Implement an Inmate-Work Program
- Contract an On-Call Nurse
- Limit employees per shift
- Report to Fiscal Court Monthly
- Purchase Packaged Meals



The Estill County Jail was built in the late 80s. The state classes it a life-safety jail, and it has beds for about 18 inmates.

South Irvine residents meet to organize neighborhood watch

Residents cite an increase in drug activity and arrests

Several of the residents of the South Irvine area have been meeting to try to organize a neighborhood watch group to combat the growing crime issue within the small, unincorporated village.

The group met first on December 5, 2016, and discussed getting a list of speakers for their meetings, contacting local newspapers, communicating with other watch groups, and putting up signs around the neighborhood.

Ronnie L. Tipton was elected president of the group and David and Ashley Sheek are taking care of secretarial duties and press relations.

South Irvine, as an unincorporated area of a few hundred residents, does not have its own police force and must depend upon the district's constable, the county sheriff's department and Kentucky State Police for protection.

City police in Irvine can only act in the South Irvine area under special circumstances.

Residents have noticed an increase in the drug situation (including arrests) in previous months and also complained about persons wandering through their yards and entering unoccupied buildings. Tipton believes a transient is responsible for a recent fire in a property he owns. He has been using cameras for increased security.

Many believe South Irvine has become the county's "hot spot" for drug and crime activity. Some in attendance at the December 19th meeting described finding used needles throughout the area.

Mike Bicknell was present and reported the successes of a neighborhood watch program that had been in place at Wisemantown for a couple of

years. That area is also unincorporated and experienced increased crime activity which has been reduced since the neighborhood watch began.

The South Irvine neighborhood watch group plans to have guest speakers from law enforcement area to speak at their meetings.

A tentative January meeting is set for 6 p.m., next Tuesday, January 10th at South Irvine Market. Estill deputy Doc Morris is expected to be there with possibly a KSP trooper to give the group advice.

The aim of neighborhood watch includes educating residents of a community on security and safety and achieving safe and secure neighborhoods. However, when a criminal activity is suspected, members are encouraged to report to authorities, and not to intervene.

IPD arrests Richmond man after traffic stop on Dec. 27

A Richmond man was arrested on numerous charges after a traffic stop Tuesday, Dec. 27 by Irvine Police Sgt. John Sturniolo.

The officer stated he observed a vehicle driven by Bryan William Mays, 28, driving east on River Drive. The vehicle pulled into Monty's Liquors and made an unsafe U-turn at the intersection.

The citation states that Mays had an odor of alcohol on his breath. He reportedly failed field sobriety tests.

The officer said there was no insurance on the vehicle and a transfer has not been registered.

Sgt. Sturniolo said Mays became aggressive at the hospital. He tried unsuccessfully to contact his attorney and refused a blood draw.

Mays was arrested and taken to the Estill County Detention Center. The citation states that while in the hallway of the jail, Mays attempted to kick Sturniolo,

but did kick a door at the jail.

The citation states that Mays also said he would get Sturniolo when he got out of jail.

The officer said there were three passengers in Mays' vehicle who stated that Mays was intoxicated by alcohol. One of the passengers reportedly told Sturniolo they were grateful he pulled the car over because they were afraid of getting into a wreck.

IPD had the vehicle towed and placed a holder on it until the registration is transferred and insurance is obtained.

Mays was charged with driving under the influence, disorderly conduct, failure of owner to maintain proper insurance, failure to register transfer of motor vehicle, reckless driving, menacing, terroristic threatening, and wanton endangerment first degree.

A \$10,000 surety bond was set for Mays.

Obituaries

Virginia Shanks, 52

Larry Townsend, 67

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EKU online enrollment continues to increase

EKU Online degree programs continue to grow steadily with more than 3,200 students enrolled as of fall 2016. Enrollment has more than doubled in the last four years.

Eastern Kentucky University introduced online programs 10 years ago. Today, more than 30 fully

online degree options span four colleges.

Online students benefit from:

- a flexible online format from a respected, accredited university.
- eight-week terms that allow them to progress at an accelerated pace.
- dedicated advisers who

work with them from application through graduation.

EKU Online nursing degrees attract the most students. Graduate nursing programs, including MSN and post-MSN options, are the most popular. The RN-BSN is also among the largest programs. The bachelor's degree programs with the

highest enrollment numbers are psychology and occupational safety.

EKU Online degree programs received numerous accolades for quality and value in 2016. U.S. News & World Report includes EKU on its list of Best Online Degree Programs. The University's online degrees

have also been recognized for quality, value and military friendliness by organizations such as SR Education Group, Affordable Colleges Online and Best Value Schools.

For more information about EKU Online degree programs, visit www.go.eku.edu/fall16.