



2017 Estill High Senior Prom -- Page 15

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Officers of the senior class led the graduates on Friday as they walked through West Irvine Intermediate School. They also visited Estill County Middle School, Estill Springs Elementary, and South Irvine P-K to encourage students to graduate.

\$5.7 grant is awarded to Estill for Career & Technical Center

The Estill County School District has been awarded a \$5.7 million grant for a new regional Career and Technology facility.

The local school board met in a special session Tuesday at noon to decide if they wanted to accept the state's offer because it was \$2 million less than they had asked for. The board was also given until 5 p.m. Tuesday to accept the offer.

Supt. Jeff Saylor said the board had three choices. The first was they would have to add in the additional \$2 million from local funds. Second was to scale back the facility, but he said you cannot reduce programs.

The third option was to

withdraw from the grant program and hopefully be funded later.

"This will be the last shot, in my opinion, to get this money," Saylor stated.

If that happens, the board will have to fund the technology center entirely, and Saylor said the costs will go up.

After a lot of discussion, the four members present voted unanimously to accept the state's offer of \$5.7 million.

Saylor said the local board now needs about \$3,774,000 to put toward the career and technical center.

He added the current bonding potential would give the board \$3.7 million but it would bond the board out

completely.

The first option listed for funding the center was the "recallable nickel" which the board is going to vote on at Thursday's meeting.

Saylor estimated this will give the board \$16.1 million, or more than enough funding.

The second option is to transfer \$100,000 from the general fund to make the bond payment each year.

Saylor added this has been done by the Estill County School District for several years.

He stated this would leave the board with \$2.5 million for emergencies.

He also added that a 4 percent tax increase on prop-

erties would generate about \$100,000 annually, also enough to make the bond payment.

The third option was a program called "New Market Tax Credit," which Saylor said was new to him. He added that Magoffin County Schools has used this program.

He said when the local district receives the \$5.7 million, it would generate an additional 70 cents for every \$1 available.

Saylor said the fiscal court will be donating \$1 million in in-kind services, and other partners have contributed \$52,000 toward the vo-tech center.

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Grand jury indicts one

A five-count indictment was returned by the Estill County Grand Jury on May 9 against Michael Shawn Adkins, 47, of Red Lick Road, Irvine.

The indictment charges Adkins with first degree assault, third degree terroristic threatening, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, first degree unlawful imprisonment, and first degree persistent felony offender.

According to the indictment, Adkins injured a woman by striking her in the face with a dangerous instrument (frying pan) on

March 14. It adds that he also threatened to kill her and restrained her under circumstances which exposed her to a risk of serious physical injury.

The indictment states that Adkins had a Marlin .22 caliber rifle in his possession on March 14.

He has been previously convicted of two prior felony offenses.

Adkins was arrested March 15 Kentucky State Police Trooper Ty Robinson. His bond was set at \$25,000.

He is now lodged in the

Three Forks Regional Jail in Beattyville.



Michael S. Adkins
Photo/Three Forks Jail

Fiscal court discusses jail but it remains shut down

A lengthy discussion of the Estill County Jail dominated much of Monday's meeting of the Estill Fiscal Court.

The court discussed making the needed repairs to the jail and reopening it.

"I see future problems because of the age of the jail," stated Jailer Bo Morris.

Judge/Executive Wallace Taylor suggested changing the name of the jail to Estill County Annex so that inmates could be taken there on court days and then changing the name back to Estill County Jail when it reopened.

"You can't open a jail that size anymore," said Deputy Jailer Chad Smith.

"A building sitting empty will deteriorate," stated Magistrate Darrell Johnson.

Johnson and Magistrate Gerald Rader made a motion to make the repairs needed to get the jail reopened, but Taylor and Magistrate Bill Eldridge were against it to tie the vote.

Morris said on Monday, there were 80 Estill inmates housed in jails in other counties.

Those present at the meeting stated they thought Estill had more people arrested than other counties.

Morris said that Circuit Judge Michael Dean had issued a request which was due Monday about the fiscal court's plan on transporting the inmates, a restroom for

them to use, and providing lunch for them.

The three magistrates said they have never seen a copy of Judge Dean's order.

Taylor said he had contacted the Dept. of Corrections and they do not have copies of inmate transporting plans.

County Attorney Rodney Davis suggested that Taylor contact other counties who transport inmates and see if they have plans for transporting inmates.

Circuit Clerk Stephanie Brinegar and her deputies were present at the meeting to request repairs of the upstairs restroom and some other issues in her offices, including air conditioning.

The court asked the deputy clerks how the jail closing had affected them. LeeAmber Roberts said it has made more work on that office, which probably recorded a record number of felonies this past week. (An exception may have been when there was a drug bust) She stated they are not receiving the paperwork in a timely manner.

It April, the fiscal court paid \$100,000 in claims for the jail, which were from when the jail was open. This month, the claims were over \$59,000, but it is still too early to see if there is a savings by having the jail closed.

An appeals hearing is scheduled this week by the Department of Corrections.

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Community Chorus will present their spring concert this Sunday

It's that time of year again -- Time for the Estill County Community Chorus's Spring Concert. It will be held this coming Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the Irvine United Methodist Church, 243 Main Street.

The chorus will be sing-

ing a variety of show tunes, folk songs, and some sacred songs. The conductor is Dr. Rose D. Daniels of Richmond, and the accompanist is William Robinson of London. Also, the Irvine United Methodist Handbell Choir will be performing.

Come out to hear and enjoy some beautiful and fun music pieces. The chorus have been busy rehearsing since the beginning of March this year, and you will be pleased to hear the harmony that has been achieved.

Obituaries

- Harold Brandenburg, 72
 - Gary Calmes, 73
 - Susan Dunn, 72
 - Ivadel Hart, 82
 - Richard Henry, 87
 - Henry Johnson, 80
 - Raymond Kelly, 74
 - Mildred McIntosh, 69
 - Wendy Rice, 28
 - Teddy Scott, 71
 - Neffie Woosley, 91
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Lily Mountain Nature Preserve is dedicated

Over 50 people attended Tuesday's dedication of Lily Mountain Nature Preserve, at Panola near the Madison County line.

The nature preserve contains 560 acres which were purchased through a grant from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund.

Jack Stickney, a member of the Estill Soil Conservation Board, said the preserve has been bought in three tracts over the last seven years.

"It's ours for all of Estill County to use," he stated.

Stickney's son, Caleb, built a gazebo at the preserve several years ago for his Eagle Scout project. The gazebo has places for maps of trails and other information.

Local work on the pre-

serve is done by Friends of Lily Mountain.

Currently there are eight hiking trails and two parking areas, one on Little Rock Road and the other on Crooked Creek Road.

Justin Rogers is the president of Friends of Lily Mountain. He said the idea for the preserve started with his high school art teacher, Rocky Burkhart.

Burkhart used to own some of the property now in the preserve. He sold it to Don and Nancy Copeland. The Copelands sold the land to be designated as the preserve and donated another small tract where the preserve's caretaker, Steven Walters, lives.

Rogers said all trails are marked.

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Boy Scouts and leaders posed for a photo in front of the informational gazebo (kiosk) that scouts helped Caleb Stickney build as his Eagle Scout Project at Lily Mountain Nature Preserve. The barn, pictured below, sits near the parking lot with Lily Mountain in the background.

