

2017 ESTILL COUNTY FAIR

50¢

INC 3rd TAX IN KY

Begins Saturday -- See Page 13



The Estill County Tribune

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 51

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017

IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336

16 PAGES



Kristen Wiley, director and curator of the Kentucky Reptile Zoo at Slade, shows a non-venomous snake Thursday to children at the Estill County Public Library. She brought a king snake, a rat snake, a boa native only to Madagascar, an alligator, a gila monster, and a snapping turtle for two educational presentations. The reptile zoo has three purposes: extract venom for medical research, provide educational exhibits, and encourage conservation of reptiles. In the right photo, children paid close attention to and interacted with Wiley. The Library has been busy this summer with reading and summer lunch programs.

Inmate escapes after his arrest

An inmate was quickly recaptured after he escaped custody from a police cruiser at the Estill County Jail parking lot Thursday night. Irvine Officer Colton Lewis arrested Marcum G. Johnson, 27, of Cantrill Street, Irvine on a Lee County bench warrant. District Judge William Leach had issued the warrant June 16 saying Johnson had failed to appear in Lee District Court on charges of third degree criminal trespassing and second degree criminal mischief.

Johnson's citation states that he flipped his handcuffs from the back and in front of him. He then slid the cage glass to open it before climbing into the front seat of the cruiser.

The citation adds that Johnson then fled to the liquor store located at 11 River Drive where he was met by Ravenna Chief Ken White and Deputy Daniel Smith. He reportedly resisted both officers.

The citation states that he

admitted to Deputy Smith that he had smoked marijuana.

After returning to the jail parking lot, Officer Lewis said that Johnson yelled curse words and called him names.

Johnson was charged with second degree escape, resisting arrest, public intoxication of a controlled substance, second degree disorderly conduct, and third degree criminal mischief.

Bail for Johnson was set at \$1,000 cash.



Marcum Johnson

Empty train cars stored on tracks

The CSX railroad stretches from one border of Estill County to the other, and along the Kentucky River.

Since the coal business has dwindled in Eastern Kentucky, there has been little train traffic until lately.

CSX Railroad has begun storing rail cars in Estill County, and other Eastern Kentucky counties.

A Saturday morning drive found that no crossings were blocked. At least one rail track was available for trains to travel.

Some are welcoming the new traffic. Others hate it.

Those who don't like it have train cars parked right in front of or right behind their homes. Their 360 degree view of the countryside is now cut in half.

The tracks go right be-

hind Judge/Executive Wallace Taylor's home at Pryse. There are train cars parked behind his house.

"My back deck is thirty feet from the railroad," he stated.

He is disappointed that he cannot look out back and check his livestock and fields.

He has to go down the road and drive over a railroad crossing.

Taylor is also concerned about the effect of rail car storage on the wildlife. Small animals can go under the rail cars but the cars interrupt paths used by deer, elk, and other wildlife.

He saw a train go up the track on the June 17 afternoon and heard another one go up the next morning.

Continued on Page 14



Over the last several months, CSX Railroad has stored rail cars on side tracks in Estill County. The photo above was taken from the Cressy bridge.

Council to raise garbage fees to balance budget

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

Two weeks after passing the budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, members of the council met on Monday night to discuss the budget once again.

Mayor W.J. Noland stated that he had vetoed the budget because of three line items within the budget that he didn't agree with.

Councilman Tim Burkhart made a motion to overturn the mayor's veto of the budget and when it came to the council's vote four members were in favor and two were not which meant the motion didn't

pass.

City attorney Rodney Davis informed the council that at this point the city still didn't have a working budget but could continue with the budget that they had used for the previous year.

However, Davis said that there several line items that were in the red and that the city could not continue writing checks for those line items without doing a budget amendment.

A suggestion was made that money be moved from other areas to cover the line items that were in a deficit.

Continue on Page 14

Obituaries

- Mary L. Grise, 83
- Jamie Chaney, 39
- Melissa Estes, 46
- Bobby Hoover, 66
- Lucille McIntosh, 83
- James Mullins, 37

See Page 6

Charles E. McLemore, 106

See Page 14

New Obits at EstillTribune.com

TUESDAY

JULY 4



INDEPENDENCE DAY

© 2017 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Next Week's Deadline Friday 4 p.m.

Estill County is funded for Rocket Docket program

The Judicial System in Estill County has been funded to start a Rocket Docket program.

County Attorney Rodney Davis learned the county was approved just last week. The fiscal court has set aside funding for several years to show their interest in the program.

On Monday, Davis told Judge/Executive Wallace Taylor, that meetings were held and the first Rocket Docket will be held on Thursday, July 6.

The Rocket Docket program started in Kentucky in 2015 to expedite drug pos-

session cases, especially heroin, through the court system.

Statewide, it is estimated to take 45 days on the Rocket Docket from the time a person is arrested until their case is resolved. Otherwise, the average is 180 days or even longer.

When a person is charged with a felony, he or she goes through an arraignment or preliminary hearing in district court. If an indictment is returned, there is another arraignment in circuit court and numerous hearings before the case ends.

The district court actions

are eliminated when a case is presented directly to the grand jury.

The Rocket Docket program usually skips the indictment step. An offender is offered a plea agreement and goes in front of a circuit judge if he accepts the plea.

Persons eligible for the program are those who are charged with felony possession of drugs. In some locations, those who traffic in drugs to support their habits are also eligible.

If a person is charged with a violent crime, they are not eligible for the pro-

gram.

A goal of the Rocket Docket program is to get drug users into one of many drug rehabilitation programs sooner. Drug Court is also listed as one of the eligible treatment programs.

Another goal of the Rocket Docket program is to keep the offenders working and in school.

Some counties even speed up court dates for persons who are in jail and unable to make bail.

Counties with Rocket Dockets estimate up to a 40 percent savings on jail costs.