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# The Estill County Tribune

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## 2 charged with sex crimes involving minors

Two Estill County men were arrested April 12 on child sex crimes in separate incidents.

Kentucky State Police charged Joseph Lee Ledford, 40, of Cantrill Street, Irvine with distribution of matter portraying sexual performance by a minor first degree and possess/view matter portraying sexual performance by a minor.

The citation states that an undercover investiga-

tion resulted in the charge. It adds that over 20 files of child sexual exploitation were found on Ledford's electronic device.

While the search warrant was being executed, Ledford reportedly told Trooper Ty Robison he had drugs in his bathroom cabinet.

The trooper said he found a white powdery substance and a smoking pipe.

He charged Ledford with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and

first offense (methamphetamine) and drug paraphernalia buy/possess.

Andy Estes, 42, of Eli Sparks Road, Irvine was charged with prohibited use of an electronic community system to procure a minor.

The citation states that during an undercover investigation, it was revealed that Estes was chatting online with a person whom he thought was a 13 year old girl.

It adds that he requested nude photographs of the girl and sent nude photos of himself in the chat messages.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Leslie Strong.

The search warrant allowed KSP to confiscate computers and other electronic related devices for their investigation.

Ledford and Estes were incarcerated at Three Forks Regional Jail.



**Joseph Ledford**  
Photo/Three Forks Regional Jail



**Andy Estes**  
Photo/Three Forks Regional Jail



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, including at West Irvine Intermediate School. The school was one of ten which received blue pinwheels to plant on the school's lawn. A child of a teacher at the school, Liz Renner, was abused by its babysitter in 2016. The school sold blue t-shirts with the names of Renner's son and the other child who was abused on the front with a pinwheel. \$1,000 in profits from the sale of the shirts was donated to Prevent Child Abuse KY. Renner, holding the big check, presented the funds to Jill Seyfred, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse KY

## Estill receives two Opportunity Zones

Two areas of Estill County have been declared as Opportunity Zones In Kentucky

144 sites in 84 counties have been designated as Opportunity Zones.

A Kentucky Opportunity Zone is a low income U.S. Census tract that encourages individuals and corporations to invest in a variety of economic development projects through "Opportunity Funds"

These areas in Kentucky - both urban and rural - have been classified as low-income or undeveloped. In fact, over half the communities eligible for designation as Opportunity Zones had fewer jobs and fewer businesses in 2015 than in 2000.

Opportunity zones were created by Congress to encourage long-term investments in low income urban and rural communities na-

tionwide. At Monday's fiscal court meeting, Joe Crawford with Estill Development Alliance gave a rough description of those sites.

He explained that Estill County is divided into four quadrants.

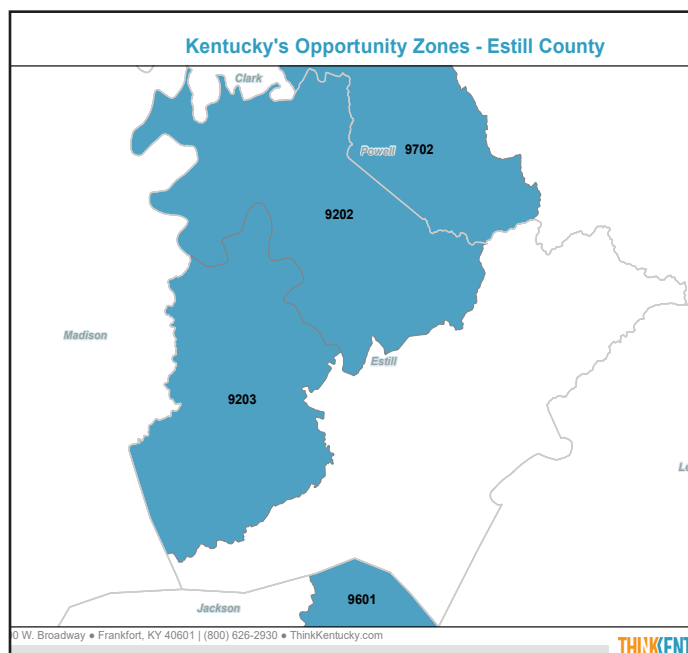
The two western quadrants plus the city of Irvine will make up two Opportunity Zones.

"This is a big deal," Crawford stated.

Because the zones are in their beginning stages, local officials are still learning about the Opportunity Zones.

Crawford said they are waiting to find out how they will access bonds.

Opportunity Zones are spread across Kentucky, with one or more Opportunity Zones being within driving distance of all Kentuckians.



## Jail fund is improving in budget

Judge/Executive Kevin Williams commented on the closure of the Estill County Jail at Monday's fiscal court meeting.

"A lot of other counties are doing it," he stated about transporting prisoners to other jails.

He thanked the jailer and the transport officers for their cooperation.

Before entering into a contract with Three Forks Regional Jail, Williams said the county was housing inmates in multiple county jails at a cost of \$29 to \$100 a day.

He said by housing all prisoners in Lee County, it gives the county a figure to put into the next budget.

"To get the jail going again, you're talking hundreds of dollars for repairs," he added.

Before the local jail was closed, due to its small size, the county was holding about 20 prisoners there and it was costing \$75 to \$80 a day to house each one. There were 30 to 40 that were then transported to other counties then.

Williams said the county is saving \$4-5,000 every week in payroll, overtime, and utility costs.

The county has a van which is used to haul inmates to court, up to 13 at one time.

The jail cost in the next fiscal year budget is expected to be \$900,000 or less. This year's jail budget has been estimated as high as \$1.5 million. The fiscal year ends June 30.

County Attorney Rodney Davis said the fiscal court had received a judgment from Circuit Judge Michael Dean on the closure of Mt. Springs Road.

He stated that Judge Dean has levied fines of \$500 each to Kevin and Rebecca Moes for contempt of court

(blocking the road).

He also sentenced each of them to 10 days in jail. The jail sentence will be suspended if the couple pay their fines and do not block the road again.

Joe Crawford with Estill Development Alliance updated the fiscal court on upcoming activities, including Moonlight Madness.

Ronnie Riddell, Emergency Services director, was granted permission to advertise for siren yearly maintenance, microwave modification project, and replacement of two generators. Those items will be paid for with CSEPP funds.

Riddell was given permission to purchase radios, again to be paid for with

CSEPP dollars.

Susan Starling was reappointed to a two-year term on the Health Department, Board of Health Taxing District.

Bids of \$1,037 for a 2000 Chevy S-10 4x4 and \$7,700 for a 1996 Ford dump truck.

The fiscal court rejected two bids for a 1999 Freightliner box truck.

Williams also discussed plans for the Kentucky River Park to include camping and sports.

Williams announced the May meeting will not be held on the third Monday because of election the following day. Instead, a special meeting will be on Thursday, May 17 at 4:30 p.m.

## Brewer Signs With Kentucky Christian



Estill County High School signed yet another athlete to a college scholarship on Monday, April 16, 2018, when Savannah Brewer inked her letter of intent to play soccer for Kentucky Christian University in Grayson, Kentucky. Estill soccer coach Andrew Hatton said after seeing how fast Brewer was that "whatever it takes" he wanted her to play for Estill's soccer team. He said the effort to get her to play for Estill was "the best decision I ever made." Brewer became goalie for Estill and was 1st team All-14th Region for two years. He remarked that Estill's opponents will be "glad she's gone." Seated left to right are Estill coaches Hatton and Candie McMaine, KCU coach Devin Johnson, Savannah, and her parents, Kim and Don Brewer.



### Obituaries

- Sallie Bell, 62
- Mary Calmes, 89
- Morlin Curtis, 64
- Lowell Flanary, 74
- Kenneth Griffin, 48
- Dexter Goosey, 70
- Clara Pitts, 88
- Regina Robinson, 51
- Zackie Warner, 64
- Etta Woosley, 83

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