

Lexi Tiller is essay winner for "Why My Grandparent Should Be the Grandparent of the Year?"

Every year since 2001 AARP and the Kentucky Retired Teachers Association, along with Estill County Retired Teachers, have sponsored a Grandparent Essay, "Why My Grandparent Should Be the Grandparent of the Year?" for all fifth graders in Kentucky Public Schools. The reason is to honor grandparents, since so many are having to assist with or even rear their grandchildren.

Lexi Tiller from West Irvine Intermediate School was the school and county winner for

the 2018/19 school year for Estill County. She was selected from Julie Raider's home room with Haylee Brooks as runner-up. Sofie Collett and Chase Hobbs were runners-up from Danielle Beckman's home room. The county winner's essay is passed onto the district.

Here is Lexi Tiller's winning essay for the contest:

Do you have a papaw that you think could win the national AARP grandparents award? I think my papaw should win the national AARP grandpar-

ent of the year award because he is hard working and loving.

My papaw is very hard-working. He will get everything done no matter what. For example, it doesn't matter if it's snowing or raining, he will always get the job done. If he says he'll do something, it's almost a guarantee that it will be done. He is responsible for most things at church even though he's not the pastor. He always waits for everyone to leave before we do. He was also mainly responsible for boxing in the picnic area at the church.

My papaw is also very loving. He is very dedicated to me. He always comes to my games unless we have church service that day.

He will do anything for anyone no matter who it is and what they ask for. He always helps me in sports and pushes me to get better. He is very loving and loves any and everyone.

Those are the reasons I think my papaw should win the national AARP grandparents of the year award. He is hard-working, loves everyone, and

will do anything for anyone. He always comes through when you need him.

**Lexi Tiller
West Irvine Intermediate**

AARP awards the county winner recognition and certificate. ECRTA gives the winner and all runners-up a certificate and a monetary award. They are very appreciative of all the help the teachers give the students with their essays.

See photos of the winner and the runner-ups at right on Page 15

Estill student receives first FFA "Shark Tank" money

Kentucky FFA recently instituted a "Shark Tank" competition for Kentucky students and an Estill County High School student Casey Howell is among the first ones selected and was actually the first student named to receive the \$5,000 Shark Tank money.

Students were invited to send in a proposal for their project. Casey submitted initial paperwork, a video about his business, and a letter of recommendation with the help of some great supporters... then pitched his idea to the Sharks, followed by their impromptu questions on stage Tuesday afternoon.

Then the wait began... but Wednesday evening, his name was the first one called to receive the \$5000 Shark Tank money! He received this letter from the committee:

Dear Casey,
Congratulations on being awarded \$5,000 in Kentucky

FFA's first ever Shark Tank competition. We are thrilled to invest in your business and we can't wait to follow along and continue to cheer you on.

As part of this gift, we would like some updates on your project throughout the next year. We ask that you send us an expense sheet of what you have spent this money, via e-mail, to us by August 15th, December 31st and June 1st of 2020. We will send e-mail reminders.

In addition, as your project grows, please let us follow along with video and photos! You can tag us on social media or send via e-mail. As part of being a Shark Tank winner, we would like to connect you to one of our "sharks," Kentucky FFA Foundation Board members and entrepreneurs.

Looking forward to watching your business, and you, reach your full potential.

**Sheldon McKinney
Executive Director**



Steve, Casey and Angela Howell

Casey received a \$5000 check to utilize in growing C3 Fabrication, his entrepreneurship SAE. Wow!! Congratulations Casey

Howell on being selected for the first-ever Ky FFA Shark Tank!! Way to go Casey and C3 Fabrication! A huge thank you to all

those who helped make this happen!! #kyffafoundation #kyffathemiles. Casey is the son of Steve and Angela Howell.

Estill School Board meets to discuss construction projects and new policies

**by CATHY DAWES
The Estill County Tribune**

School board members met in special session on June 11th to discuss construction projects. A diagram of the new bus garage showed the modernized building complete with an outside wash bay. The new bus garage will be located on the right side of the road just before getting to the high school. There is currently a pull off spot at that location and Superintendent Jeff Saylor that with that location there would be no need for fencing around the area. He said there would be a gate at the bottom of the hill and anyone wanting to gain entrance to the facility would use a code to open the gate.

Kenny Davis, project co-ordinator from Codell Construction, spoke briefly to board members about his role in the construction projects. He said that he would be on site at least once a week and would attend meetings to let the board know how construction was going but there would be a superintendent on the job site each day. With the demolition of the bus garage being one of the first projects to tackle, Davis said that Innovative Demolition from Lexington was the low bidder. He added that there had been five bids submitted for the demolition project which was very rare. Innovative Demolition estimated the cost of the project to be around \$227,127. There are

allowances written into the 60 day contract to deal with contaminated soil and pyritic shale if the need arises. The contract also includes the removal of diesel tanks which are at the current location. If all goes well the bus garage demolition will be completed by the end of August.

The purchase of land for the upcoming projects has been a long hard process according to Superintendent Jeff Saylor. He said they are waiting on the final approval from KDE for the purchase of the Puckett property which turned out to be 130 acres according to the survey. The topic was tabled until the meeting on June 20th until the final approval is made.

Donna Isfort said she had spoken with the Puckett family and they told her that their parents would be pleased with the school district buying the property.

A first reading of policy and procedure updates was discussed by the board. As of July 1st all public schools in the state of Kentucky will be tobacco free. This will include ballgames and other events. Mr. Saylor said that this even included ball tournaments that were held on school property on the weekends. He said that someone would have to be in charge to make sure that no one violated this policy.

The next policy that was discussed was the disposal of school property. This is in regards to the Chromebooks

that will be available for students to purchase in the next couple of years. Jeremy Simpson said that students will have the option to purchase the Chromebook that they have used for \$1. He added that teachers would also be able to purchase those for their classroom if there were any left over.

Any guest speakers or any program participants will now be required to have a background check thirty days prior to the event they are wishing to attend. Under the revised policy anyone with drug related felonies, sex related offenses, offenses pertaining to a minor or adult, or a deadly weapon offense will not be allowed on school property. Isfort asked if some of the word-

ing could be changed in this policy because there are peer support specialists who may have been involved in drugs earlier in their life and have turned that around. She said they come to speak to the students at different times throughout the year and if they changed the language in the policy and have those persons obtain a waiver from the superintendent.

The superintendent's evaluation was discussed briefly. Mr. Saylor said he knew that culture in the district was an area that needed worked on but he would like to know the other areas that he needed to focus on by the next board meeting. Members agreed that they would have his evaluation ready by the meeting on June 20th.

Triple Threat, Academic All-State Honorees Finalized for 2018-19

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association has announced final counts for its "Triple Threat Award" and "Academic All-State" recognition programs for the 2018-19 academic year, and five Estill County students are included.

In its second year of existence, the Triple Threat Award was presented to a total of 1,878 student-athletes for 2018-19, while 151 KHSAA member schools recognized a total of 10,046 students as First Team Academic All-State and 5,772 students as Academic All-State Honorable Mention.

Estill County students named for 2019 includes **Amber Arvin** (volleyball, basketball and track), **Hannah Baker** (soccer, basketball, track), **Amelia Farmer** (soccer, basketball, softball), **Kaylee Riddell** (volleyball, basketball, softball) and **Ethan Webb** (football, basketball, track).

Last year's list for Estill County included Kaylee

Covey, Amelia Farmer, Jerry O'Hair, and Kaylee Riddell.

"We are very pleased with the participation level of our membership with the Triple Threat and Academic All-State programs," said KHSAA Commissioner Julian Tackett. "Both of those processes have been automated to help our membership and make the recognition more readily available to our great student-athletes."

Created by the Commissioner's office in May of 2018 as a way to continue the national emphasis and the KHSAA's own efforts to de-emphasize sports specialization in the athletic culture, the Triple Threat Award recognizes those students who participate in high school athletics (sport or sport-activity) at the varsity level year round (fall/winter/spring).

"In these days where some people erroneously believe that a student needs to participate in only one activity year round to succeed, the Triple Threat Award allows us to

counter that myth with nearly 1,900 great examples of kids that represent their school all year long as multi-sport student-athletes," added Tackett. "Every study published continues to prove that much more damage is done by sport specialization than benefit is gained, and we will continue to emphasize that point."

A closer look at the breakdown of honorees for the 2018-19 academic year revealed that:

- 269 of the 280 member schools have at least one honoree, up from 266 in the program's first year;
- Eleven schools feature at least 16 honorees;
- Villa Madonna has the most of the member school honorees with 23, followed by Prestonsburg with 22, Belfry, Johnson Central and Metcalfe County with 18 each, Pikeville and Scott High with 17, and Frankfort, Kentucky Country Day, Phelps and St. Patrick with 16 apiece;
- By class, 509 seniors, 482 juniors, 453 sophomores, 363

freshmen, 53 eighth graders and 18 seventh graders were honored;

• By gender, 843 females and 1,035 males qualified for the award;

• By sport, basketball had 1,132 honorees (647 boys and 485 girls), Track and Field had 1,077 (594 boys and 483 girls), Cross Country has 527 (258 boys and 269 girls), football had 522 and soccer 452 (189 boys and 263 girls).

Further details on the breakdown of Triple Threat Award recipients can be found at: <https://khsaa.org/news-stats-pubs/news-and-information/triple-threat-award/> Initiated in 1985, the KHSAA annually awards "Academic All-State" recognition to student-athletes in conjunction with a corporate partner. The awards, in the form of certificates, are presented to students who have maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.25 on a four-point scale. Those students are awarded "Honorable Mention" rec-

ognition. Students maintaining a 3.75 cumulative average on a four-point scale are designated "First Team." The awards are based on cumulative grade point averages from the time of enrollment in ninth grade, are given only to varsity participants, and only to participants who are enrolled in grades nine through twelve.

"We are also pleased that our long-standing Academic All-State program continues to flourish with more than 10,000 documented awards being given at our schools for students that achieved extremely good grades while balancing their academic and athletic workloads. It's also very likely that even more awards are being presented locally that are not documented in our system," said Tackett. "Athletics and activities are great partners for the classroom, and this program continues to recognize those that value the partnership."

The count of participating schools and award recipients

is based solely on the participation of the member schools, with the award certificates generated by each school as a function of the member school login site provided by the Association. It is possible a school has chosen recognition at the local level as an alternative, so the listing should not be assumed to be exhaustive. Due to privacy laws and restrictions, the KHSAA does not maintain for publication the names of student-athletes receiving this recognition or the specific grade point averages.

Pine Hill Baptist Bible School

Pine Hill Baptist Church on Barnes Mountain Road at Doe Creek, will be having Vacation Bible School, Wednesday through Friday, June 19-21, 2019, from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m.

There will be classes for everyone and all are welcome to attend.