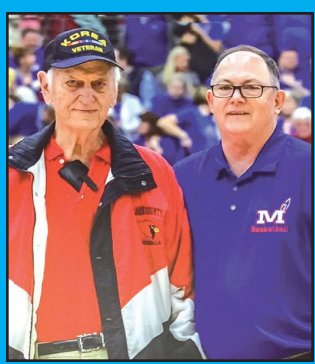


**Joe Benton
is Estill's
third lead-
ing scorer
Page 13**



**Two from
Estill will be
in KHSAA
Hall of Fame
Page 13**



**Steve
Brewer's
Just
Hunting
Page 9**



The Estill County Tribune

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 37 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 14 PAGES

Judge declares local state of emergency

By DELORES ROWLAND
Estill County Tribune

Although no corona virus cases have yet been reported in Estill County, those attending Monday's regular meeting of the Estill Fiscal Court took no chances.

Those attending the meeting left empty seats between them and the next person.

Most of the actions tak-

en at that meeting also concerned the corona virus pandemic.

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson declared a local state of emergency.

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear had already declared a state-wide emergency on March 6, and President Donald Trump declared a national emergency on March 13.

A local Emergency Operations Plan will go into effect during this emergency.

Ronnie Riddell, Director of Estill County Emergency Management Agency will use local resources and coordinate emergency services to provide assistance.

County Attorney Jason Riley will provide legal guidance and assistance

to all Estill County agencies as requested.

During this state of emergency, Judge Watson may waive procedures and formalities otherwise required by law. This includes entering into contracts, incurring obligations, renting equipment, appropriating and expending public funds, utilizing volunteer workers, and employing

and placing permanent and temporary workers.

The judge may enforce all laws and regulations related to this emergency.

The fiscal court also passed a resolution to continue government during this crisis, if elected officials become ill or unable to serve.

Watson will be appointing a deputy judge

executive, who will take his place if he becomes ill. The county has not had a deputy judge executive since last July.

If both the judge and deputy judge become ill, then Magistrate Mike Abney from District 1, will take over, followed by magistrates from District 2, and District 3, Paul Tipton and Gerry Flannery.

Continued on Page 2

Schools fix lunches for 'homeschooled' students



Estill County Schools is offering free meals to our students at this time. We will be serving both breakfast and lunch.

All meals will be packaged and ready for pick-up at both West Irvine and South Irvine.

AT RIGHT: Estill County Schools are preparing breakfasts and lunches for students this week and next week. The following week is scheduled for spring break. **AT LEFT,** a school employee loads meals to be delivered to one of the sites.

The meals can be picked up at one of the designated locations during the times listed above. Please call 726-3061 if you have a transportation issue.

Photos courtesy of Estill County Board of Education

Breakfast will be available from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and Lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Also, we have five satellite locations for lunch pick-up in our county between the hours of 11:30

a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

These locations are:
Hargett Fire Dept
Mt. Carmel Christian Church
Thomas Baptist Church
Beech Grove Baptist Church, and
Ravenna Choo-Choo

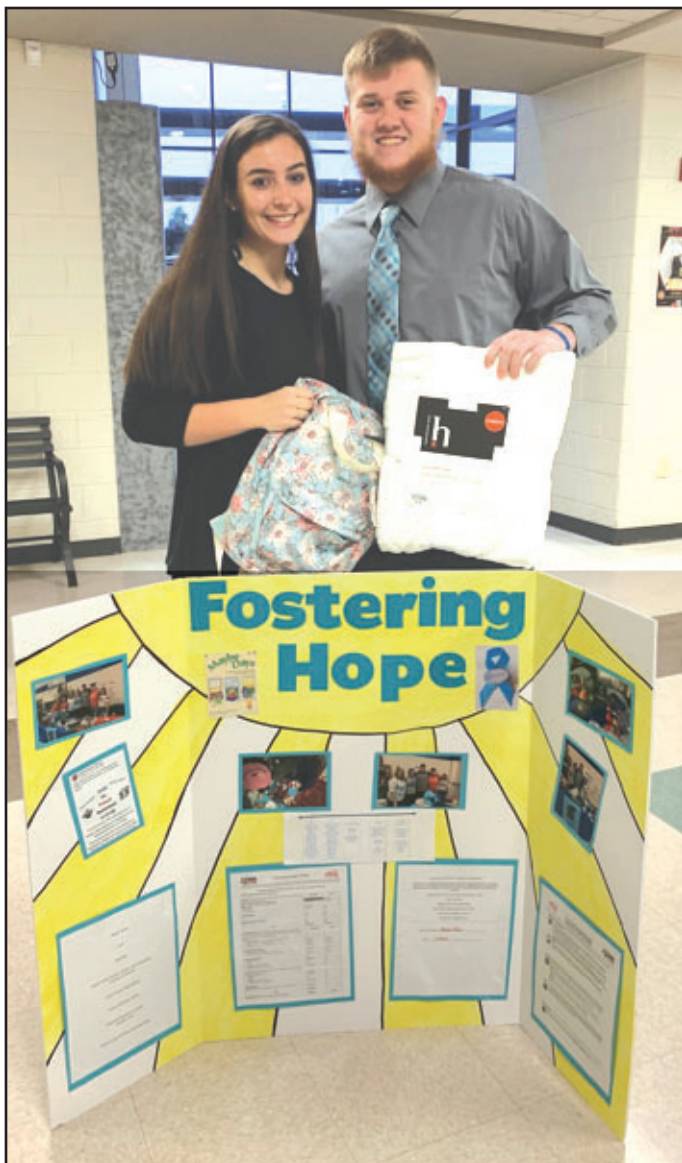
Park.

Finally, if you have transportation problems or any other issues and cannot make it to one of these locations, call 606-726-3061 or your school center.



THURSDAY
SPRING BEGINS
MARCH 19
© 2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc.
World rights reserved.

Obituaries
Jewell Castle, 75
Margaret Cumpton, 57
Bobby "Pete" Dawes, 83
Jeffrey Gilbert, 49
Hope Marcum, 71
Jean Smith, 81
See Page 6
EstillTribune.Com



Two students at the Estill County High School, Mia Hale and Micah Swim, have participated in a project for FCCLA that not only won them a regional title but has also helped foster children in Estill and surrounding counties. Continued on Page 2.

Tribune photo by Cathy Dawes

School board votes to close school until April 6 for pandemic

By CATHY DAWES
Estill County Tribune

Members of the Estill County School board met in special session on Thursday afternoon to discuss the situation with the Corona Virus and to make some very difficult decisions.

The first item on the agenda was to approve ten non-traditional instruction days for this school year as well as the upcoming school year.

Superintendent Jeff Saylor said that while he was not a big fan of NTI days, he felt like it was better for students to be doing something.

He stated that packets would be sent home with students on Friday as well as information on students still being able to receive breakfast and lunch from one designated location within the district.

He added that students could come to the location and pick up meals but if there was a need for delivery then they would make certain that the students were fed.

Saylor added that with circumstances changing from day to day that this would

not be considered an extended spring break, and with school being closed for three weeks there would also be no extracurricular activities including sports and things of that nature.

He added that several students live with elderly relatives, and even though this virus is not targeting younger people, they could still be a carrier of the virus.

A pandemic viral event plan was approved by the board. The plan was already in place, according to Saylor, who said that the district had been battling with the flu since August.

All in state and out of state trips were cancelled until further notice including the trip for seniors to Washington D.C. and a trip for 8th graders to Chicago.

The two trips could not be rescheduled, but the board discussed alternative activities to be held at the end of the year.

A percentage of what parents had paid on the senior trip and the 8th grade trip will be refunded to parents in the near future.