

Governor Beshear cuts ribbon on Estill ATC

Governor Andy Beshear was one of the guest speakers at Friday's dedication of Estill County's new Area Technology Center (ATC).

Two speakers recalled when sitting governors had visited Estill County in the past.

Board Chairperson Donna Isfort stated that Governor Martha Layne Collins spoke at her high school graduation 1982.

Citizens Guaranty Bank President Kathy Samples said the wife of Vice President Spiro Agnew was scheduled to speak at the dedication of Estill County High School in 1971. She cancelled the visit, and Gov. Louie Nunn spoke instead.

(The present governor's father made a grant presentation in Estill County before his last term ended.)

Governor Beshear said the ATC was all about the students. He added how the impact of the ATCs training would make this area competitive for jobs.

"This is a dream that's been going on for 25 years," Supt. Jeff Saylor stated.

After introducing the Estill County Board of Education, Saylor also introduced Powell County Supt. Anthony Orr and the Powell County Board of Education.

"Without the partnership between these two boards, this would never have happened," Saylor said. "It's been an honor to partner on this project."

He stated the Estill Board had applied for a grant for the ATC but was turned down. The recommendation was they go in with another school district.

Powell County High already offers a few career and technical classes. The local ATC will have classes to supplement those.

"It's all about creating opportunities for everyone," said Dr. Koffi Akakpo, President of Bluegrass Community Technical College (BCTC).

BCTC will also be partnering with the Estill ATC to offer training for displaced workers who are seeking new careers, offering dual credits for high school students, and providing post

secondary evening classes for community and technical college graduates.

"We didn't wait for operational funding to start the building," Saylor stated.

The operational funding was put in this year's Kentucky budget for over \$740,000.

Coy Hall was hired as principal of the ATC in April.

The center will offer programs in Advanced Manufacturing/Maintenance Mechanic; Construction/Industrial Electrician; Diesel Mechanics/Small and Medium Truck Repair; Engineering/Project Lead the Way; Health Sciences/Nurse Aid; and Informational Technology/Computer Science and Networking.



Governor Andy Beshear, front middle, listened to other speakers at the ribbon cutting ceremony before getting to speak. Rocky Adkins is on the left, and Gwen Saylor, wife of Supt. Jeff Saylor is right.



William Hardy presented Gov. Beshear with two Carhartt jackets on Friday.

Irvine council to reconsider needle exchange program

Continued from Page 1

The dirty needles were being found in the parks and in people's yards. Officers were getting stuck while they were picking up the discarded needles.

"You're asking us to promote something that is illegal," added Sturniolo.

Officer Jim Marshall said that he had been involved with a drug bust where the dealer was selling needles from the program for \$5 in exchange for a dirty needle from the buyer.

Marshall added that the officers do care about the addicts and they give them money, food, and try to get them help.

Mandy Watson, a nurse at the health

department, asked the council that if they would give the program another chance, they would make arrangements for someone at the health department to pick up needles when they were found out in the city.

She added that they have received phone calls from people asking when the program is going to be reinstated. She also told the council that when the program was running that drug treatment programs were offered to every individual that participated in the program, but only one person had chosen to seek treatment.

After some discussion about the program among the council members, they

agreed to table the decision until the next meeting to give the new council members time to learn more about the program.

The council approved a privilege license for Pam Jones to operate a medical practice on River Drive in the same location that was occupied for many years by Dr. Herbert Long.

They tabled a request for a license from the Red River Tattoo Company until they had time to consult with City Attorney Rodney Davis.

Council members Tobo Bryant and Billy Arthur said they thought there was something in the ordinance book about tattoo parlors as well as game rooms

and pool halls, but would have Davis look into the matter and get back with them.

Council member Kris Lee asked about publishing delinquent city taxes in the newspaper after Mayor Gross pointed out that 44 of the names listed in the paper for county taxes owed city taxes as well.

City Clerk Robin Powell said that in the past they had published them in the paper, but the cost of running the names in the paper compared to how many taxes that were collected did not pay off. She said she would contact the newspaper and see what the cost would be and let them know at the next meeting.

Estill Fiscal court to receive \$2.735 million in American Rescue Funds

The Estill Fiscal Court learned Monday, July 19 about how money can be spent from the American Rescue Plan.

Grayson Evans with Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD) said Estill County will receive \$2.735 million from the plan over the next few years. the pandemic.

Evans said the BGADD will provide technical assistance to Estill County on projects they spend their money on. He added the county cannot use the funds for new economic development or to acquire land.

The money can be used for infrastructure including water and sewer projects and recreation. Evans said infrastructure includes sewer and water. The county can also use the money for a new fire station or new EMS building.

Elizabeth Walling, administrator at the Estill County Health Department, spoke to the fiscal court about covid vac-

cines. Walling said that 38.34 percent of Estill Countians have been vaccinated.

Walling said the health department received funds to purchase a freezer that goes to 85 below zero. That allows the department to keep the Pfizer vaccine on hand.

The fiscal court approved the settlement of Sheriff Chris Flynn.

Judge/Executive Donnie Watson said that when Estill County property owners pay their taxes this fall, they will get to use the drive-thru at the former B&B Bank Building.

The court will advertise for bids for replacement generators at the EOC center and Red River tower site.

One bid was opened for decontamination Personal Protection Equipment. The bid had several options, and Ronnie Rid-dell, director of EOC, said he wanted to talk with the fire departments and see which option they

wanted.

The fiscal court corrected the mileage on Deer Run Road.

Watson said the road will go to the end of the hard surface, an additional 490 feet.

Approval was given for remodeling the bank building.

All employees were given \$1 an hour raises across the board.

Jimmie Wise, director of Estill County EMS, said the ambulance service has made 2,220 runs with 40 employees and six ambulances.

He said two of the new ambulances are Type 1, which are 4 wheel drive. He added the service can no longer get ambulances of the previous type.

Wise, who is also coroner, said the county has had a problem with fake medications the last several weeks.

"They're getting the wrong stuff," Wise stated.

Lucas Barnes, assistant director at EOC, asked the court to bid on an IT

contract for two years, because the present contract expires in September.

Tommy Lane, director of the Rescue Squad gave a quarterly report. He said there have been nine non-injury wrecks, and 32 injury ones. He said the squad averages one search and rescue a week. He added that some of those searches are providing mutual aid to Powell County.

Solid waste coordinator Chad Smith had spent Monday in Frankfort about a tire disposal program. He expects Estill County will have a tire amnesty in October.

A third shift firefighter was hired at the starting rate.

County Attorney Jason Riley said district court starting meeting in person last week with over 200 persons on the docket.

Sheriff Flynn said the thefts of catalytic converters have shot through the roof.

Ravenna Council meets

Continued from Page 1

According to Johnson the council had to accept their pay each month for tax purposes. However they were free to donate that money back to the city each month if they chose to do so but they would be required to claim that on their taxes at the end of the year.

She said Johnson also told her that the mayor's salary is \$400 per month and the council's pay is \$100 per month.

The council discussed filling one of the open seats on the council. Marsha Coleman was present during the meeting and expressed interest in the position.

Council member Tammy Howell said that Brandon Hisel and Wayne Babb were also interested in the position, and she would like to nominate Brandon Hisel;

She added that Hisel had been at all of the council meetings and seemed genuinely interested. Hisel was appointed to fill the position by a unanimous vote.

With the resignation of Buford Powell that leaves one more vacancy on the council and another person will be appointed at the next meeting that will be held on the second Monday in August.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

PROVERBS 31: 30,31

Etching of a Woman by Anders Zorn (1860-1920)

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