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\$200,000

Health department seeking 3,000 square foot expansion through matching grant with state

By JOHN A. NELSON
Citizen Voice & Times Editor

The Estill County Health Department is seeking a \$100,000 grant from the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources to add 3,000 square feet of space to its facility on River Drive. The project is expected to cost \$200,000.

The other \$100,000 will be provided locally, with about \$76,000 coming from capital outlay monies currently in the health department's budget. The remainder will be taken from monies accumulated from the health department's taxing district.

According to Estill County Judge-Executive Ralph McClanahan, who is also chairman of the health department board of directors, an oral commitment to fund the construction was received last week from Human Resources Secretary Al Austin during a visit here.

Austin requested a letter from county officials outlining the program and the funds needed and agreeing to the local match, McClanahan said.

The 3,000 square foot addi-

tion is said to be needed for enlargement of the waiting room, three new clinic rooms, four new offices, two restrooms designed for the handicapped, a small lab, a record unit, a storage and supplies room, and a conference room which can be used for educational purposes.

Repairs to the existing building are also being considered, along with paving of

the parking lot.

The current facility was built in 1961. It contains nine rooms and three rest rooms with no handicapped facilities in the 1633 square feet of space.

In the 25 years the facility has been open, the staffing has more than doubled. In 1962, the health department had three full-time employees and one part time. Today there are eight and five, respectively.

During the last fiscal year, there were 19,835 services provided to 4,553 "unduplicated" patients, according to a letter from McClanahan to Austin last September.

The letter cited conditions so crowded that as many as three employees providing counseling to patients are sharing the same office, and it told of instances in which services are being provided in the hallway and waiting rooms.

Some patients have reportedly had to wait in the parking lot.

Some staff and services are being provided from a trailer in the parking lot behind the main facility. The graveled parking lot is in bad repair.

The initial request from McClanahan, in the September letter, asked for only 800 additional square feet of floor space, consisting of five clinic and examining rooms. It offered \$50,000 in local matching funds for an equal amount of state funds.

When it was discovered that the state might be willing to provide as much as \$100,000, the request was scaled up to include the additional office space and the paving of the parking lot.

The Estill County Fiscal Court sent a letter to Austin Tuesday expressing support for the project and further outlining the specific needs.

Representatives of an engineering firm were in Irvine Monday to review the facility and discuss the development of plans.

The court's letter tells Austin that construction could begin in early to mid June.



Estill Judge-Executive Ralph McClanahan is pushing for a \$200,000 expansion to the local health department. If a grant is approved, construction could begin in June.

Fiscal Court gives nod to health dept. project

By BOB HERRON
Citizen Voice & Times Staff Writer

Three members of the fiscal court signed a letter Tuesday supporting the health department's attempts to receive a grant which would be used for a \$200,000 expansion.

The \$100,000 matching grant, which has been sought by the health board since last September, would come from the state and would be used to provide more room for patients served at the health department.

The letter to E. Austin, secretary of the Cabinet for Human Resources, expresses the court's agreement to the

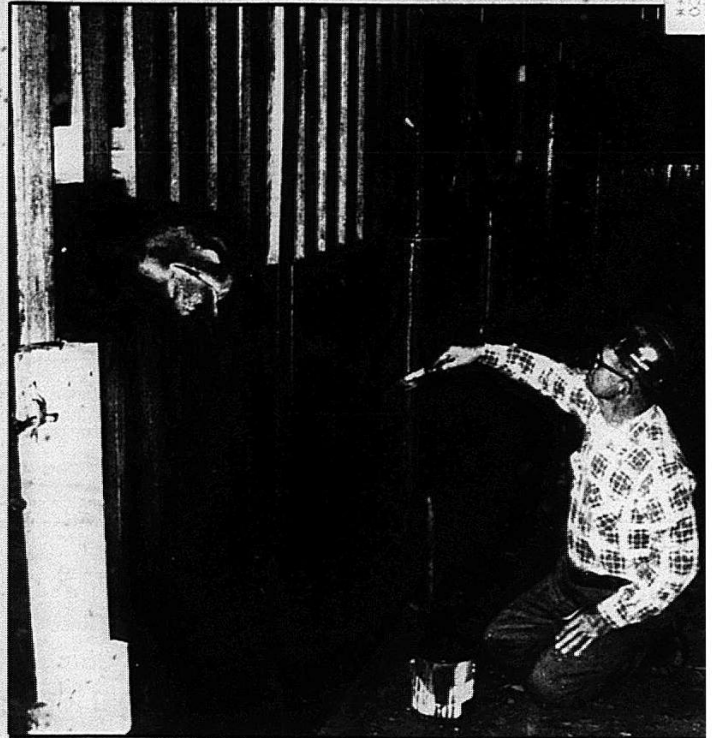
expansion and outlines what the grant money would go toward.

Besides the addition of rooms, the grant would also be used to build two restrooms designed for the handicapped, one small lab, repairs to the existing building and blacktop for the parking lot.

The letter expresses the hope that construction could begin in June.

Newly appointed administrator to the health department Fern Dalton said the health board would match the funds from the state with money it has earmarked in

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Herbert Hunt, a Green Thumb worker for the county, applies a protective coating over the stall inside the barn on the Estill County Fairgrounds this week while a curious friend looks on. The barn was built by Green Thumb in 1971.

Murder charge against Reed dismissed Friday

The case against Mickey Reed, accused murderer of Loretta Lynn Willoughby, was thrown out of court last Friday due to lack of enough evidence to sustain a conviction.

According to Reed's attorney, William Chambliss, the order dismissing the case cited that the Commonwealth did not have proof to sustain a conviction of Reed and questioned whether a crime was committed at all.

"The evidence gathered said that Willoughby was killed by a blow to the head, but it didn't rule out an accident," Chambliss said. "It certainly didn't connect Mickey Reed to it."

The dismissal comes after an 18-month grand jury investigation into Willoughby's death, and a trial date for Reed had been set for May 15.

Missing for three months, Willoughby's body was found in a wooded area behind Irvine on May 10, 1985 by Reed. She was 15.

A coroner's report said that Willoughby's death was a

homicide. The commonwealth is still able to continue investigating the case and return it to the grand jury again if more information surfaces, but Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Phillip Owens said he doubts the investigation will continue unless something new shows up.

Owens said the grand jury, which does not determine guilt, did a thorough job in its investigation and felt there was enough evidence to make a charge; but as the trial drew closer, the evidence wasn't enough to convict Reed.

"I could prove she was dead, I could prove how she died, but I couldn't place her with anyone...it was too remote," Owens said. "The judge asked me...I told him what evidence I had and he said, 'That's not much, is it?'"

Owens said that there wasn't a statute of limitations on a felony case in Kentucky so the case would not be closed.

"We never close a case," he said.

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CLEANUP WEEK
APRIL 18-25

This Saturday begins Cleanup Week in Estill County.