



Estill Judge Executive Donnie Watson attended the swearing in of Bill Wesley as State Representative of the 91st District on Saturday. Watson appeared to be surrounded by a group from Breathitt County.



Kirby Easterling, left, chairman of the Madison County Republican Party, listens as Ryan Dotson speaks. Dotson is a minister from Winchester and also won a seat in the House of Representatives.

Bill Wesley is sworn in as state representative

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"I believe tourism is going to play a big part in our district," Wesley stated.

He added that he is working on getting a campground in Owsley County, the poorest county in the nation and state.

Lee County is ranked the second poorest in the nation and state.

Wesley said there are no picnic tables and no garbage cans in the counties he represents. He has plans to open up caves and trails throughout the district.

He said tourism will produce revenue and jobs.

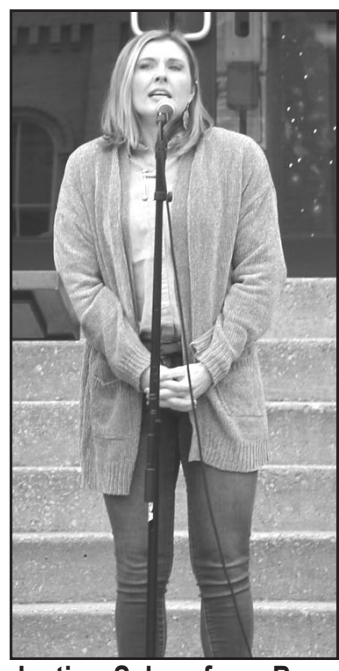
Jessica Lee was intro-

duced to the audience. While working as secretary under Gov. Matt Bevin, she was credited with getting the Kentucky Steam Engine project in her hometown of Irvine.

Wesley talked about the Area Technical Center under construction at Estill High. He wants to get something similar for Lee and Owsley counties.

Wesley serves as chaplain for the local police departments and rescue squad. He wants to get state support for them.

"There is no need for our first responders to stand on a corner every three months panhandling," he stated.



Justine Salyer from Breathitt County sang the National Anthem at Saturday's swearing-in.



Tim Burkhardt has served 20 years on the Irvine City Council.



Les Withers was sworn in for his second two-year term on Irvine Council.



Woody Tipton has served 19 years on the Irvine City Council.

Betsy Ridge man arrested for assaulting his sister

After investigating an assault on New Year's Day, Sheriff Chris Flynn charged James Covey, 47, of Betsy Ridge Road, Irvine with menacing.

The sheriff said he received a call from dispatch of a reported assault and argument between Covey and his sister, Leona Covey.

While on the way, Sheriff Flynn stated that he received another call from J. Covey's mother stating that he threw a soda can at her.

Prior to Flynn arriving on the scene, he said J. Covey fled into the woods. He and Deputy Josh King were unsuccessful in locating him.

The sheriff stated the woman had a visible swollen black eye. She was checked out by Estill EMS and refused

to be transported to the hospital.

When the officers arrived back in town, Flynn said they received another call from Leona Covey. She said her brother was back on the property. He had broken a window on the front door and unlocked the door.

Flynn said when they arrived back on the scene, he made contact with J. Covey in the living room who was arguing with his sister. While the officers were there, he said Covey continued to argue with his sister, her kids, and his mother after being told to stop.

The sheriff arrested J. Covey and charged him with menacing for the safety of the household and his continued threatening behavior.

Police Activity Report

Jonathan Raymond Johnson, 19, of Overlook Road, Irvine, was cited for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol by Officer Jason Conrad on December 30.

Conrad said he observed Johnson's vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed on Winchester Road. As he was trying to catch up with the vehicle, it turned onto Geneva Avenue.

He found the vehicle parked in a driveway and it was not occupied. Conrad said he located a teenaged male hiding in the woods, who smelled of alcohol.

The citation states the teenager told him that he was not the driver of the vehicle, and he lived across the street.

Officer Conrad and Detective Sam Hensley made contact with the teen's parents at the residence. They stated the person, Johnson, whom the vehicle belonged to, was in their basement.

A Jackson Circuit Court warrant was served on **Eric Lee Raider**, 30, on January 4 by Officer Conrad.

Raider was indicted in Jackson County for possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine); drug paraphernalia -- buy/possess; tampering with physical evidence; and criminal littering.

Joshua Riddell, 38, Stacy Lane, Irvine, was arrested January 2 by Officer Russell Morris.

Morris said he was dispatched to 230 Main Street where a male was breaking the tail lights out of a 2017 Silverado truck belonging to Mark Allen. The officer stated that when he arrived on the scene, Riddell fled on foot and was caught up with in front of the courthouse.

Officer Morris charged Riddell with public intoxication - controlled substance (excludes alcohol); criminal mischief third degree; and fleeing or evading police, second degree (on foot).

Regina A. Neal, 41, of John Rawlins Road, Irvine was charged December 31 with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine), drug paraphernalia -- buy/possess, and possession of a controlled substance, first degree, third offense or greater.

Officer James Marshall said he traffic stopped a vehicle for insurance verification. A K-9 alerted on the vehicle, and the operator gave consent to search the vehicle.

According to the citation, Neal was a passenger in the vehicle. She told the officer that she had a rig in her purse. Officer Marshall said that a suboxone tablet was located in her purse and a small amount of meth in a cigarette wrapper. She also had several syringes.

Two Estill warrants were also served on Neal because she allegedly failed to appear in court.

Deputy charges Salt Lick man with drug possession

A Salt Lick man was arrested New Year's Day by Deputy Sheriff Josh King.

King and KSP Trooper Jansen Hacker were dispatched to a Dollar General parking lot where two people appeared to be intoxicated.

Upon arrival, Deputy King said he found a driver and female passenger in a mini van who appeared to be intoxicated.

While talking to the driver, King stated that a syringe containing an identifiable liquid was in plain view in the floor board behind the driver's seat.

The driver, Jesse Swartz, 36, of Salt Lick, was asked to step out of the vehicle. He advised the officers that he did

not have anything illegal on him and they could search his pockets.

The citation states the officers found a small clear baggie containing a white, crystal substance, suspected to be methamphetamine in the right front pocket.

The officers state that Swartz had pinpoint pupils and was constantly making abnormal movements appearing to be consistent with intoxication.

Swartz was charged with public intoxication of a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), drug paraphernalia -- buy/possess, and possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine).

Daytime closures scheduled for KY 594 (Red Lick Road)

Drivers who use KY 594 (Red Lick Road) in Estill County will have to find an alternate route for the next few weeks, as repairs are planned that will necessitate the road's closure during working hours.

Work is tentatively planned to begin by Monday, Jan. 18, to repair a major break in pavement. Initially, traffic will be able to pass through the work

area, but most of the repairs will require the road to be closed during the day.

The work zone location is at milepoint 4.7, which is 0.5 miles west of Horns River Road and 4.7 miles east of the Madison County line.

During overnight hours, one-lane traffic will be maintained and controlled by temporary signals.

No marked detour will be posted. Drivers who wish to detour via state routes will need to use US 421 in Madison County to connect to KY 499 or KY 52. Locally-maintained roads are available, such as Clark Road and Knob Lick Road to connect with KY 499.

No timeframe is available for when the repairs will be completed and the road fully reopened.

Flinchum is Ravenna mayor

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Flinchum added that she had been sworn to uphold a code of ethics which is a 23-page document that was instituted by former Mayor Beverly Thompson.

All council members voted yes to Flinchum

filling the mayor's position except Crowe, and she voted no.

Flinchum said that she has 30 days to be sworn in as mayor and she called a special meeting to be held on January 5th at 6:30 to discuss payroll, hiring a

city clerk, and a city attorney.

She added that someone was willing to look at the computer in the clerk's office to see if it could be fixed and that she would also handle getting the checking accounts changed over.