



The Estill County Tribune

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Former teacher is indicted on more charges

A superseding indictment was returned January 21 against a former Spanish teacher at Estill County High School, Sherry D. Murphy, 41, of Joseph Proctor Bypass, Irvine.

Murphy resigned from her teaching job on April 3, 2019 during an investigation by Kentucky State Police.

She was originally named in three count and two count indictments related to alleged criminal

activity between her boyfriend and herself.

The first indictment charged her with unlawful transaction with a minor, first degree, tampering with physical evidence, and failure to report child or dependent abuse or neglect, first degree.

The second indictment charged Murphy with intimidating a witness in the legal process and fourth degree assault.

The superseding docu-

ment adds 13 new charges to the two-count indictment.

Murphy was arraigned in Estill Circuit Court on Feb. 2 on the superseding indictment charges.

She is represented by attorney Michael F. Eubanks. Murphy waived a formal reading of the superseding indictment and entered a plea of not-guilty.

The Commonwealth made a motion to amend

the original document to reflect that the two original charges are sustained.

Judge Michael Dean scheduled a jury trial for Murphy on August 16. Her final pre-trial conference will be held on August 3.

Murphy's new charges now include complicity to prohibit use of electronic communication system to procure minor/peace officer re: sex offenses; two counts of tampering with physical evidence; failure

to report child abuse, first offense; unlawful transaction with a minor, first degree, illegal sex act, under 18 years old; four counts of solicitation to prohibited use of electronic communication system to procure minor/peace officer re: sex offenses; and four counts of unlawful transaction with a minor, first degree -- illegal sex act, under 18 years of age.

Continued on Page 2



Sherry Murphy
File Photo



Susan Lynch, manager of the Dollar General in Ravenna, presented Police Chief Ken White with a card and a plaque on Monday night during the council meeting. White assists Ravenna businesses when they close each night. Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

Indictments returned in attempted fatal robbery

An Estill County grand jury has indicted three men in connection with a fatal robbery at a Richmond Road residence just after midnight on Tuesday, October 6.

Kentucky State Police said three men had gone to the residence to rob the occupants when an altercation occurred between them and the residents.

Multiple gun shots were fired, and all three alleged robbers were injured. The two residents inside the home were not injured.

One of the three alleged robbers was 26 year old James Baker, who died at the scene. He was from Mallie, Kentucky. The other two suspected robbers were transferred to UK Hospital with life-threat-

ening injuries.

The grand jury, on January 21, indicted the two alleged robbers on a charge of first degree robbery. They are Colby Cross, 25, and James Napier, 23, both from Winchester, Kentucky.

The indictment says the two men threatened Daniel Rhodus and Andre Fox with a 0.40 caliber Taurus pistol and intended to rob them of \$150,000 cash.

First degree robbery is a Class B crime and is punishable by 10 to 20 years in prison.

A separate indictment was returned against Rhodus, 27, of Maple Grove Road, Irvine. He was one of the occupants where the attempted robbery occurred.

Continued on Page 2



Colby Cross
3 Forks Jail Photo



Daniel Rhodus
3 Forks Jail Photo

SUNDAY
Valentine's Day
FEB. 14
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Mtn. Mushroom Festival is cancelled again

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

Mayor James Gross told members of the Irvine council on Monday night that the city had received CARES money, and they would need to amend the budget to reflect that addition.

He also let them know that the annual Mushroom Festival would not be held again this year due to the pandemic. Gross said he had spoken with Francine Bonny who organizes the event each year.

He was told they had not had any meetings because they were

waiting on a decision from the Estill County Health Department. He said under the recommendation from the health department there would not be a festival for the second year in a row.

Fire Chief Justin Patrick spoke to the council about hiring another full time firefighter. Currently there are two full time employees and three part time employees, and he would like to see the starting pay raised to \$12 per hour.

Patrick said the department had lost several employees recently because they had gone to

other cities that had a better pay rate. He also said that the two full time employees work a lot of overtime and estimated that he had been paid \$9,000 in overtime wages last year.

Police Chief John Sturniolo added that the starting pay for police officers had been raised to \$15 per hour but that still was lower than surrounding areas, and that he felt like what Patrick was asking for was extremely reasonable.

The council agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting after they had time to review the

budget to see how much they would be able to raise the firefighter's pay.

Mayor Gross said the roof on the building located on Main Street had been repaired. He said there were five or six places that were leaking and was pleased to announce that the problem had been taken care of.

He also wanted to clarify a situation that had been reported in the newspaper recently about the city of Irvine taking over the Ravenna police and fire departments.

Continued on Page 14

Obituaries
Teresa Amis, 60
Audrey Charles, 95
Bobby Couch, 74
Shawna Estes, 38
Ronald Newlin, 76
Vickie Watkins, 67
See Page 6
See Updated Obits
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Residents voice concern over discarded bolts

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

Brandon Hisle and Wayne Babb attended the Ravenna council meeting on Monday night and told the council that a stop sign had been cut and replaced in front of their home located on the corner of Elm and 4th Streets.

Babb said that the bolts from the old stop sign had been left laying in his yard

and gave them to Mayor Valerie Flinchum.

She stated she was not aware of any road sign replacements and didn't know if it was the city employee or someone else who had done that.

Hisle said it was the city employee because they had watched him stand in the bucket of the tractor to cut the sign.

Flinchum assured the men that she would ad-

dress the situation on Tuesday with the employee.

Flinchum said the \$12,000 bill to the tax withholdings had been paid.

Councilmember Amy Crowe asked why the minutes from the previous meeting did not reflect the amount of money in the general fund that was to pay the bill to the IRS, it only showed how

much was owed.

Flinchum replied that at that time they didn't have an accurate figure of how much money was in the account because they didn't know what had been paid that had not been processed through the bank at that time.

Sharon Snowden asked Flinchum if there was an accurate balance at this time, and Flinchum said yes.

She also added that they were trying to make improvements on the way residents of the city paid their taxes and would be checking into purchasing a device that would allow residents to pay with a credit or debit card.

Susan Lynch, manager of Dollar General, praised Police Chief Ken White for the hard work he does for the city.

Continued on Page 14