

School board to make tough decisions on sports

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Mr. Saylor said that they would have to make some tough decisions in the fall when the new school year starts about students who are doing virtual learning but still want to participate in extracurricular activities.

Saylor said in his opinion he didn't feel like students should be able to say they were afraid of COVID but then want to participate in large group activities such as football or band.

"I personally believe if you're not in person instruction then you don't play," stated Saylor.

He went on to say that it was time to get out of the pandemic mindset and get back to some sort of normalcy.

While giving an update on the construction projects throughout the district, Peter Fisher told board members that June 1st was a tentative date to begin upgrades on the athletic facilities.

Those upgrades will include a new greenhouse facility, locker room area, new bleacher area on the football field, and seating for tennis matches.

Improvements will be made to the softball and baseball area as well, and according to Saylor, it will be a top

notch athletic facility when it's completed.

Bryan Covey asked if the updates on the football field with the new fenced in track area would allow people to stand on the track and watch games as they have done in the past.

Saylor said that other new facilities are set up with a fence around the track and that no one is allowed inside of the fenced in area per KHSAA requirements. He said that having fans on the track has caused problems in the past.

One other upgrade that will be done at the high school will be at the main

entrance to the school. There will be an enclosed area upon entrance into the building, and someone will have to enter several doors before actually being inside of the school where the students are.

A new entrance for band members will also be included in the upgrade. As of right now band members have to enter through the auditorium to reach the band room, and Saylor said that students will now be able to access the band room through a different area. They will keep the doors to the auditorium locked.

KSP charges Estill man with trafficking in drugs

An Estill County man was arrested last Wednesday evening and was charged with trafficking in drugs.

KSP Trooper Ty Robinson said he observed a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado pass him on Opossum Road as he was at the junction of Sandhill Church and Opossum Run Roads. The truck made a left turn onto Sandhill Road.

Robinson said he could see through the back glass that the driver was not wearing a seat belt. When the license plate was run, it came back as "verify proof of insurance."

Robinson said he made a traffic stop on the truck as it was turning into Arthur's Junk Yard. He asked for the driver's license and proof of insurance, and the driver handed him both.

The trooper stated the driver seemed nervous and his belly was "trim-

mering." He had observed a purple bag hanging from the rear view mirror.

Robinson called Sheriff Chris Flynn and his K-9 Ruby to assist him. The officers asked for consent to search the vehicle and were told no.

Ruby was deployed by Sheriff Flynn to conduct a free air sniff of the vehicle. The citation states that she gave a conditioned response to the odor of illegal narcotics.

The citation states that Sheriff Flynn searched the vehicle and found two small baggies (suspected heroin) underneath the driver's seat on the floorboard.

It adds that he also found a small blue container behind the driver's seat and on the floorboard that contained 20 full xanax bars and 7 halves. He also located a small white pill bottle behind the passenger seat with

suspected heroin and a digital scale under the driver's seat.

The officers confiscated \$727.

Lucas Decker, 25, of Rockaway Road, Irvine was charged with failure to wear seat belts, trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (heroin), trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (opiates), and drug paraphernalia - buy/possess.



Lucas Decker
Photo/3 Forks Jail

Guilty of sending TENORM into Estill landfill in 2015

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In case of an accident, the signs are used to let police, firefighters, and emergency workers know the contents of their haul.

After then Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear said there was not enough evidence to charge Hoskins, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services sought civil penalties against him.

The cabinet fined Hoskins \$2.6 million personally and Advanced Dispos-

al \$2.6 million for disposing of illegal waste. Kentucky law prohibits out of state waste in landfills.

The cabinet also fined other companies involved in transporting the waste a total of \$8.19 million.

Hoskins fined bankruptcy in 2017 personally, on Advanced TENORM, and on BES, LLC, another one of his companies.

He reportedly received \$127,110 from transported the TENORM to Kentucky landfills.

Measure expanding definition of mental health professional passes House, heads to Senate

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 1, 2021) - The Kentucky House of Representatives passed a measure today that would expand the list of those classified as a qualified mental health professional for the purpose of child welfare.

According to Representative Bill Wesley, the sponsor of HB 448, the measure would allow private agencies or companies to qualify, therefore expanding access to care and allowing more mental health professionals to participate in child welfare hearings.

"This small change will update the current definition of a qualified mental health professional to mirror the definition found in our state's juvenile code,"

Wesley said "This is necessary because there are times when therapists and counselors are asked to give testimony in court, and they are not able to because of how the court interprets the definition of a qualified mental health professional. Furthermore, it is important we continue to increase access to mental health services and this bill aides in that effort."

Wesley, an outspoken advocate for Kentucky children, is in his first term in the House and has already made a name for himself as an active, engaged member of the General Assembly.

"I promised I would get to work immediately and I intend to keep my word," Wesley added. "Our state

faces a great number of challenges, but we are blessed with many opportunities. I want to make sure that we're prepared to meet each one."

The bill will now move to the Senate for consideration. To view the measure, visit legislature.ky.gov or follow the link here



Trucks sat at the intersection of KY 52 and KY 1571 in Ravenna on Monday afternoon trying to decide what to do. At that time, motorists could turn at a street before this intersection and go around the Wigwam to get back on KY 52.

Flood causes damages to homes, businesses, roads

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Monday afternoon, the flood stage in Ravenna was 38.1 feet.

Flooding has resulted in gas being cut off at some residences. A boil water advisory is in effect for part of Red Lick Road, Clark Road, Locust School Branch Road, and Kissy Branch Road residents.

The National Weather Service reported the river stage was 15.8 feet on Saturday before the rain began. When it reaches 21.0 feet, it becomes a flood state.

The weather forecast for Saturday was for moderate flooding.

Over 40 roads in the county have been closed due to the flooding.

These roads include: Dark Hollow, Millers Creek, Red Lick, Maupin Hill, Driftwood Drive, Clear Creek, Noland Creek, Murphy's Ford, Lily Ferry, Little Doe Creek, Coal Wash, Little Buck Creek, Old Landing, Dug Hill (close to the county line), Pitts Road, Sunrise

Valley, Knob Lick, Cobb Hill (bottom of the mountain), Sang Branch, Parvin Road, Wisemantown Road, Wall Street, Stacy Lane, Crooked Creek, Third Street in Ravenna, Wagersville mudslide (was re-opened), John Rawlins Road, and Sugar Hollow Road.

91st District State Representative Bill Wesley has been with FEMA to come into Estill County and the other counties in his district to assess flood damages. States of emergencies have been declared in counties and cities to enable them to receive federal assistance.

Helping Hands is accepting donations, except for clothing, for flood victims. Donations can be left at the Restoration Church on Broadway.

The church has also opened again as a shelter for those who are displaced.

Jennifer Richardson Sons is accepting items for flood victims at the River City Music and Arts building on Main Street.

Irvine Council to advertise for assistant to city clerk

The Irvine Council met in a special session Monday evening to discuss hiring an assistant to work with City Clerk Robin Powell.

Mayor James Gross said if the person is part-time, the city cannot work them over 99 hours a month. That will be 25 hours for three weeks, and 24 hours the fourth week.

A part-time employee will not receive benefits such as vacation pay or sick leave.

Gross presented salaries for the assistant to work at \$8 or \$10 an hour. The assistant will be expected to have computer experience.

He added that if the council chose to pay \$10 an hour, the council would have to amend the pay scale.

He stated the city has a payscale for an assistant city clerk, but it is much higher than what he recommended for part-time salary.

The mayor stated the clerk's office currently has a lady working with the Experience Works program for 30 hours a week. She cleans and answers the phone and takes messages.

Councilman Tim Burkhardt said he recommended the city advertise to hire someone at \$8 an hour and see if they find a qualified applicant.

IPD arrests man for AI

Donald Fields, 59, of Church Street, Irvine was charged with alcohol intoxication in a public place (1st and 2nd offense) and disorderly conduct, second degree on February 26 by Police Chief John Sturniolo.

The Irvine chief said that he was attempting to locate an intoxicated

male on Church Street. Then he had reports of an intoxicated male obstructing traffic on the Irvine bridge and entering a vehicle at the Estill Medical Clinic.

He stated that he located Fields on Francis Street, and he was staggering in the roadway.

The citation states

that Fields told the police chief that he was intoxicated and was trying to go home. Sturniolo said Fields became aggressive with him in the jail parking lot.

Officer Stewart Morris served a Jessamine County warrant on Angela M. Peel, 25, of Broadway, Irvine on February 25.