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The Estill County Tribune

EstillTribune.Com

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 4 WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2015 IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336 16 PAGES



A historic Estill County home on Cressy Road that was over a hundred years old was destroyed by fire early Sunday morning, July 19, 2015. Firemen from the Hargett, Estill County and Clay City fire departments were dispatched to the scene about 7:30 a.m., but the home was already fully involved when called in by Windstream technician Mark Worrell and could not be saved. The house was insured but was of great sentimental value to the owner, Arvel Tharp of California, who said it was built by his grandfather, John Henderson, and great uncle, Eligha King, around 1910. They bought the property in 1906 from an owner who had held it since 1871. Tharp said he was born in that home. It was occupied by Tharp's grandparents, John and Nannie Henderson, until their death, and Tharp's parents, Chester and Lucy Tharp, lived there until they passed away. Although the home had been occupied recently, the occupants indicated they were in the process of moving. No one was at the house at the time of the fire.

Fiscal court delays again ordinance on prisoner restraints

A prisoner restraint ordinance was tabled Monday at the second straight meeting of the Estill Fiscal Court.

At Monday's meeting, Sheriff Gary Freeman said he had implemented a prisoner restraint policy that came from KACO, the Kentucky Association of Counties.

This policy will only affect the sheriff's department. The one proposed last month would require everyone handling prisoners inside Estill County to follow it.

One criticism of last month's ordinance was that law officers would be charged with misdemeanors if they failed to restrain their prisoners properly.

"We are going to be more careful," Freeman stated.

Two of Freeman's long-term deputies, Doc Morris and Randy Farthing have

taken responsibility for a prisoner escaping in June.

"Somebody is going to let somebody get loose, and somebody is going to get hurt," stated Judge Executive Wallace Taylor.

County attorney Rodney Davis said the county needs to look at getting a transport van with a cage to transport prisoners from other county jails to court.

The sheriff said his department sometimes makes three trips to Jackson County and back and three trips to Lee County and back transporting prisoners.

This Friday, Freeman said he has an order to go 267 miles one way to Christian County to pick up an inmate for a circuit court hearing.

"They have a right to be present for a hearing," Davis stated when asked about hearings by video.

"We're taking deputies out of our community," said Taylor.

Along with the transport van, Davis said the court could look at hiring a jail transport officer.

He also said it may be possible to have Jackson County inmates in court one day and Lee County inmates another day.

Taylor said the Estill County Jail had cost the county \$1.13 million this past fiscal year, which is \$70,000 more than the county collects in its occupational tax. The average daily cost to keep the jail running is \$3,571.

Michelle Brantley Hayes asked the court about closing a portion of Mountain Springs Road to the public. She said it is privately maintained.

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Co. judge goes on record to oppose annexation of Richmond Rd. businesses

"I oppose any annexation," Judge Executive Wallace Taylor announced at the beginning of Monday's fiscal court meeting.

Taylor said he first learned of the proposed annexation on Richmond Road through newspaper articles last week. He also said he started receiving phone calls opposing the annexation.

"The City of Irvine cannot argue the point they can offer better services," stated Taylor.

Taylor said the fiscal court has worked hard on the fire department at Whispering Woods. He stated the fire department's response time is 1.8 minutes to a business on the Richmond Road.

"I can find no advantage to the people in that area," Taylor stated.

Taylor hinted that Irvine's goal of the annexation may be to generate revenue.

While no description has been made of the annexation area, the Richmond Road area from the bridge to the bypass is predominately businesses.

Those businesses now pay county property taxes. If annexed, they would also pay city property taxes, an annual privilege license fee, and an 11.5% fee on insurance policies.

"Are they wanting to do to Richmond Road and Highway 89 like they have done downtown? Run everybody out?" Taylor said.

"I will fight it because I don't feel like it is in the best interest in the citizens of this county," he stated.

Taylor stated he plans to visit every business in the

proposed annexation area over the new few weeks.

County attorney Rodney Davis also serves as Irvine's city attorney. He said he first learned of the annexation at last week's council meeting.

Mike Oliver, a business owner at West Irvine, also spoke against the annexation at Monday's meeting.

Since Irvine went wet, rumors have circulated that three or four West Irvine businesses want to be in city limits so they can sell alcohol.

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An Irvine City Employee Lloyd Shuler push mowed one of the city's green spaces between rainy weather last week. Shuler said he had been unable to mow for about two weeks because of the rain, which made the job hard to do.

School board recognizes retirees

by **CATHY DAWES**
Estill County Tribune

The Estill County school board met on Thursday, April 16th at the Estill County High School. Members of the board began the meeting by recognizing several retirees for their hard work and dedication to the school system.

Those recognized during the meeting were Carla Bottorff, Ruby Emmert, Kathy Farwell, Kathy Hisle, Janet Koenig, Sheila Samples, Marsha Stone, Jeff Tate, Trulena Tate, Wander Vander, Darvell Webster, Lois Webster, and Danny Wood.

Greg Phillips updated the board on the sale of bonds for the high school and South

Irvine projects. He said that by using the state bonding instead of local bonding would essentially save the school district \$90,000. He said that the money saved could be used for something else such as purchasing new school busses.

Roland Mueller informed the board that leftover funds from the high school renovations would be returned back into the contingency funds. Mueller also said that the foundation had been poured at South Irvine and they weren't happy with it. He said the contractors had removed it and would be redoing it sometime this week. He said the setback wouldn't delay construction at all but the awnings would

not be in place by the time school begins in August. He added that Lisa Reece and her staff were working very hard to reorganize the traffic flow at the school before school starts.

Superintendent Jeff Saylor updated the cell phone policy for people employed by the school district. He said that approximately twelve people have cell phones that are considered district phones under two different carriers. He said that by consolidating into one carrier and asking those with phones to pay 15 percent of their bills each month would save between \$500-\$575 per month. Saylor also stressed that employees who chose to upgrade their phones would

have to understand that the phones would still belong to the district and would have to be turned in if they left the district.

Saylor said that he thought there were a few people that had cell phones that probably didn't need one and he would address that in the near future.

A clerk will be hired to assist in the food service program according to Saylor. He said that the food service director was in charge of making purchase orders and has also been signing off on them. He said that was something that the auditors could pick up on and he thought it would be a good idea to have someone else in the office to perform

those duties. The salary of the newly hired clerk would be paid for from the food service program and Title 1 funds.

A total of 3 clerks, a transportation job, and a homebound teacher will be hired sometime soon. Saylor said that he hopes that the homebound teacher will also work in the alternative school to teach reading for a few hours each day.

Saylor said that schools within the district would be hosting open house before school started and he plans on attending each open house. He also said he had plans to be at each school on opening day as well. The first day back for students is August 5th.

Obituaries
Robert Burkhart, 80
Elwood Gould, 80
Jeannette King, 85
Edric Newman, 85
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