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Magistrates vote to reopen jail

Four weeks after the county jail was closed for bed bugs, it will be reopening this week.

Three magistrates voted to reopen the jail, while Judge Wallace Taylor cast the only no vote. The issue on Monday evening was not the bed bugs, but the cost of keeping the jail open.

The state auditor has said it costs \$72.19 a day to keep an inmate in the Estill County Jail, but other counties are housing the inmates for Estill for about \$25 a day.

In the last fiscal year, it cost almost \$1.2 million to keep the Estill Jail open.

Jailer Bo Morris was the first speaker on the jail issue. He stated he had been presented with a paper prepared by the county treasurer which had the expenses of the jail on it.

He said the paper had his salary and his deputy jail-

ers salaries incorrect. Since elected jailer, Morris said he has been paid \$66,500 annually with no raises. He said his employees are not paid anywhere near \$34,000 annually.

Taylor said the treasurer's figures include the employee's benefits paid by the county, such as health insurance and retirement.

Morris stated he also did not know that West Care fees and juvenile housing was included in the cost of keeping the jail open.

Transporting the prisoners to Lee County and back to Estill County may have been a deciding factor in reopening the jail.

Morris said during court last Wednesday, nine or ten trips were made to Lee County to pick up inmates for their court appearances and return them.

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The courtroom was packed as Estill County Jailer Bo Morris, left, asked questions about jail expenses at the Estill Fiscal Court meeting on Monday evening. Also pictured are Deputy Sheriffs Daniel Smith and Russell "Doc" Morris looking on.



Estill assistant coach Lynn West instructs the team during a break in Friday night's "Excite Night" scrimmages against North Laurel and Green County. The Engineers finished 9-3 under Coach Mike Jones last year and hope to improve on that as they start with a home opener against Fleming County this Friday night at Hoover Field in Irvine.

Grand jury indicts man for sharing child photographs

Teen also indicted for shooting grandmother

An Estill County man has been indicted on 20 counts of distribution of matter portraying the sexual performance of a minor, first offense.

The man was identified as Alexander A. Ramos, 32, of Dry Branch Road, Irvine.

The date of the alleged offenses was January 9 of this year. The indictment states that on that day, Ramos shared photo images in the j-peg format which portrayed the sexual performances of minors.

The offense is a Class D felony. If found guilty, Ramos could be sentenced to one to five years on each charge.

The investigation was conducted by KSP Det. Anthony Gatson of the KSP Electronic Crimes

Branch. Also indicted on August 13 was Jordan A. Payne, 19, of Ida Grace Road, Irvine.

The indictment charges him with assault first degree, domestic violence and wanton endangerment, first degree, domestic violence.

Payne allegedly fired a .22 caliber weapon which struck Dorothy Gregory, his grandmother, in the arm on May 7, 2015.

Assault first degree is a class B felony, punishable by 10 to 15 years in prison, and wanton endangerment is a Class D felony, punishable by one to five years in prison.

The May 7 shooting was investigated by KSP Trooper Z. Thompson.

IPD arrests man with trafficking in drugs

An Irvine man was arrested August 12 for trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense.

The citation states that Officer John Sturmiolo witnessed what he believed to be a drug transaction by Samuel D. Gollihue, 36, of 275 Main Street.

Chief Brad Smith, who made the arrest, said that Gollihue was standing at the driv-

er's side of another vehicle on Main St.

During a consented search, Smith said that 1.5 hydrocortisone pills were located inside the vehicle. A search of Gollihue revealed cash in his shorts pocket.

Captain Adrian McKinney also was assisted with the investigation.

Gollihue's bail was set at \$5,000 cash. He will be arraigned Sept. 16.



Obituaries

Harold Calmes, 96

Eliza Isaacs, 73

Ledford Lancaster, 93

Albert Webb, 96

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Blain Click to retire as principal

by DELORES ROWLAND
Estill County Tribune

This Thursday, August 20 will be Blain Click's last day as principal of Estill County High School.

"I absolutely loved my time here," Click stated. "We have one of the best high school staffs in the state."

Click said since he has never had to pink slip a teacher during his time as principal.

"We've had to cut staff a few times, but we've been able to handle it by attrition," he explained.

The staff also appreciated Click.

"Oh no, please don't go," the staff cried when Click's retirement was announced in the high school auditorium when staff from all schools in the district was present.

A standing ovation was also given for Click. High school teachers held up signs during their teacher's meeting pleading for Click to stay.

A lot of changes for the better have been made during Click's tenure at the high school.

The school now offers 17 sections

of dual credit classes available to honor students. The students can earn up to 43 college credits during their junior and senior years at no cost to them while at the same time receiving credits toward their high school graduation. Estill High is the top school among their population size for dual credit classes.

The college level classes are offered by both Morehead State University and Eastern Kentucky University. Estill teachers become accredited to teach college level classes through Morehead.

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Blain Click
Estill High Principal