

Betty Young's Times Remembered Page 3



Jay Bicknell's Wanderings from the Woods & Water Page 18

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County votes to raise occupational tax to 2%

The Estill Fiscal Court announced Monday their intentions to raise the occupational tax to two percent for persons employed in Estill County.

The payroll tax was first levied at one percent around the late 80's and was raised to 1.25 percent in 2007.

Magistrate Marty Snowden asked that the increase be for 18 months, with an expiration date of June 30, 2019. He estimated the tax increase will generate over a million dollars during that time.

Snowden stated the county owes \$1.4

million just to KACO and Hinkles.

"You can't borrow your way out of it," he stated.

Snowden said the tax increase was necessary because of the flat-line economy.

The exact date the tax increase begins was uncertain at Monday's fiscal court meeting.

First reading was given to the ordinance on the payroll tax Monday night.

A second reading is usually held 7-14 days after the first reading. A week from Monday's meeting will be Christmas.

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IPD seizes 8.3 grams of methamphetamine

Four are arrested for trafficking in meth

Two men and two women were busted for trafficking in drugs by the Irvine Police Department last Wednesday morning.

At 8:17 a.m. on Main Street, IPD traffic-stopped a 2003 silver Chrysler driven by Nancy Marie Smith, 48, of Waynesville, Ohio.

Citations states that a confidential informant working for the Irvine Police Department had coordinated with Smith to deliver and sell methamphetamine to the cooperating witness in Estill County.

After the vehicle was stopped, Irvine's K-9 Fritz

alerted on it. Chief Brad Smith said a search of the vehicle turned up one gram of methamphetamine, digital scales, and plastic bags.

He added that another 7.3 grams of methamphetamine was located in the trunk of the vehicle. Chief Smith states the substance field tested positive for methamphetamine.

Cash was also reportedly found in the vehicle.

Sgt. John Sturniolo charged Ms. Smith with trafficking in a controlled substance over two grams, operating on a suspended license, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

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Santa looks really surprised as Mrs. Claus reads "The Night Before Christmas" to preschoolers during Storytime at the library on Friday.

Man dies following fire at Stacy Lane Apartments



Dave Allen Isaacs, 41, died Dec. 13 at University of Louisville Hospital from his burns.

The man who was burned during a fire at Stacy Lane Apartments on December 11 died two days later at the University of Louisville Hospital.

Dave Allen Isaacs, 41, was found lying in the floor of a lower unit by the Estill County Fire Department.

Isaacs was transported to Marcum & Wallace Hospital and airlifted to UK Medical Center. Then he was transferred to the UofL Hospital.

Isaacs is survived by his wife, Lisa Isaacs; his mother, Debbie Isaacs of McKee, a daughter; Destini Ray

Isaacs, McKee and a grandmother, aunts and uncles.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Friday at Lakes Funeral Home in McKee with Bro. Brian Gabbard officiating. Burial followed in the Isaacs' Cemetery.

Estill County Fire Chief Derrick Muncy said Monday that he has not heard the cause of the apartment fire.

Any fire involving government buildings is investigated by the Kentucky State Police. Muncy said that is also true of a privately owned building when someone is injured.



Nora Mooers was excited to receive a snowflake ornament from Santa at Storytime on Friday.

Site chosen for vo-tech school

A site has now been chosen for the proposed Career and Technology Center.

Supt. Jeff Saylor informed the school board at last Thursday's meeting, the center will be built on property the board owns, at the Estill County High School.

Saylor said that he and architects reviewed five sites in October. He said that one of them was not available. They then looked at the cost of installing fibre optics to locations on Spout Springs Road.

The superintendent stated that Kentucky Department of Education doesn't want more than 10 percent of the cost of the building to be spent acquiring property.

Saylor said the date of the center's opening has also been pushed back a year. It is now expected to open in the fall of 2020.

Ross - Tarrant Architects will design the structure over the next nine to ten months. Bids will be let out in October.

Codell Construction Company will be the construction manager for the project.

Roland Mueller, architect with Ross & Tarrant, said

that a survey will be made of the pyritic shale on the high school site. He said a survey was made on the site of the high school addition and there had been no problems with pyrite.

Saylor said that Jessamine County built a school bus garage with diesel technology as part of their vocational school. He added that is something that Estill County will look at as it may give students some co-op experience.

He also stated the current bus garage is in need of a lift.

Mark Rawlings of Hilliard Lyons had addressed the board about bonding potential.

He said the system's bonding facility was down to \$8.5 million because the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) has gone down.

Depending on state legislature, Rawlings predicted a bonding capacity of \$11 million in July of 2018, \$11.4 million in July, 2019, and \$17 million in July, 2020.

Rawlings warned the school district could over bond if their enrollment kept declining.

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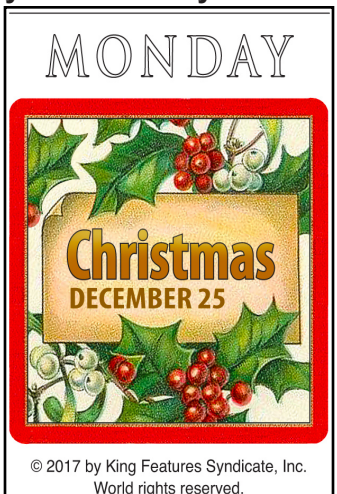
Bonny Surpasses Points Total Held by Delmar McGee for Over 60 Years



Caleb Bonny and Delmar McGee
Estill senior Caleb Bonny surpassed the all-time points total in basketball for Estill County that had been held by Delmar McGee for more than 60 years. School officials stopped the game on Friday night between Estill and Owsley County and McGee presented the game ball to Bonny. A banner in McGee's honor was hung in the Estill gym in 2010 for the 1943 points he scored. For more information see stories on Page 18 & 19.

Obituaries

- Bonnie Arthur, 83
- Lucille Birch, 92
- Billy Boian, 86
- Virgie Curtis, 71
- Loveda Farthing, 77
- Della Rose, 96
- Red Williams, 80
- See Page 6
- New Obits at EstillTribune.com



Holiday Deadline is Friday!
Merry Christmas