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Engineers Pick Up Three Straight Wins -- Page 12

Caleb Bonny has 2,022 Points
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The Estill County Tribune

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Nutcracker Sweet



Lesa Ledford, adult programmer at the Estill County Public Library, arranged cookies for the library's annual Nutcracker Sweet last Wednesday. Library patrons were invited to stop and sample the Nutcracker Sweet. Behind Ledford are shelves of DVDs which are loaned out to library patrons.

State auditor releases audit of county clerk

State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the audit of the 2015 financial statement of Estill County Clerk Sherry L. Fox. State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Estill County Clerk in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The clerk's financial statement did not follow this format.

However, the clerk's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology. This reporting methodology is followed for all 120 clerk audits in Kentucky.

As part of the audit process, the auditor must comment on noncompliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The auditor must also comment on material weaknesses involving internal control over financial operations and reporting.

The audit contains the following comments: The county clerk did not have a written agreement to protect deposits and the depository institution did not pledge or provide sufficient collateral. On September 2, 2015, the county clerk's deposits of public funds were uninsured and unsecured in the amount of \$161,228.

In addition, there was no written agreement between the county clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, securing the county clerk's interest in the collateral. The bank failed to provide sufficient collateral in accordance with statutes.

Persons seeking offices in Estill County must file by 4 p.m. on January 30 in the courthouse office of Sherry L. Fox, County Clerk.

Heather Buntin Combs has filed for re-election as Commonwealth's Attorney for the 23rd district, which includes Estill, Lee, and Owsley counties. Combs is a republican.

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One charged with selling drugs on two occasions

A 38 year old man from Estill County was arrested December 18 by the Irvine Police Department on drug trafficking charges.

Thomas Scott Reeves of McKee Road, Irvine was charged with two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree.

Sgt. John Sturniolo wrote in the citation that Reeves had sold methamphetamine on two occasions to a confidential informant working for the Irvine Police Department.

The citation adds that

Reeves sold \$40 of meth on Nov. 7 and again on Nov. 8 to the confidential informant.

The alleged drug transactions are audio and video recorded.

Reeves was taken into custody on Dec. 18 at the Probation and Parole Office on Main Street.

Bail for Reeves has been set at \$25,000 cash.

He was arraigned Dec. 19 in Estill District Court. Judge Wm. Leach scheduled a preliminary hearing for Reeves for Dec. 20.

Two file for offices Deadline to file is January 30

The filing for offices by candidates has slowed down here at the end of the year.

Justin M. Rogers has filed for re-election to the office of county surveyor. Rogers is a democrat.

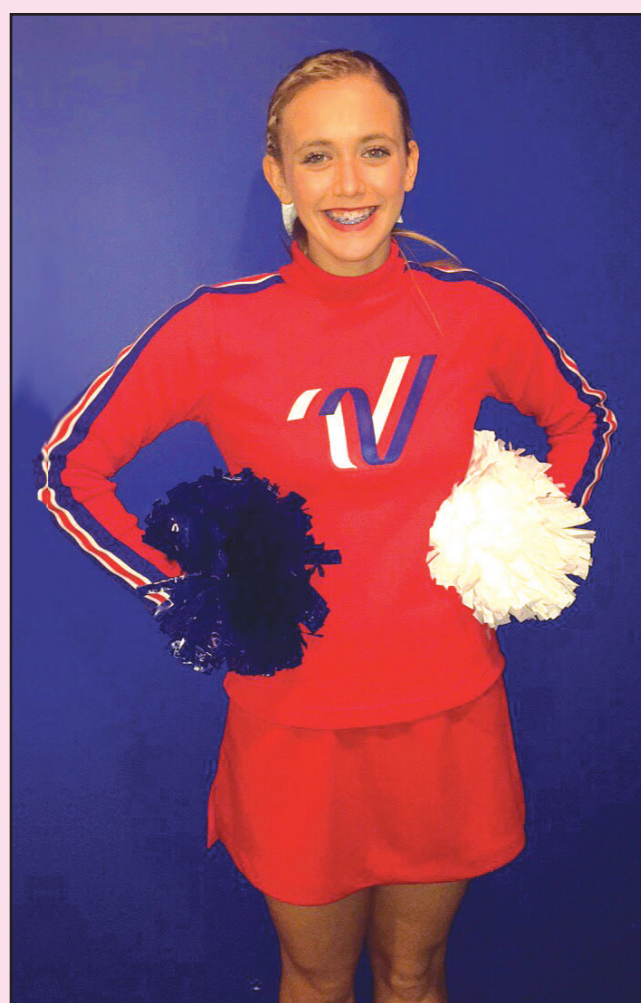
Several positions on the Estill County Board of Education, Ravenna Mayor and council will also be elected in 2018. Because those offices are non-partisan, the filing deadline for them will be in August.

December 31 is the last day for a person to file to switch political parties in Kentucky. Voter registration for new voters continues through April.

If the office includes multi-counties, persons must file with the Kentucky Secretary of State by 4 p.m. on January 30.

December 31 is the last day for a person to file to switch political parties in Kentucky. Voter registration for new voters continues through April.

Estill cheerleader will participate in London New Year's Day Parade



Estill Junior Christian Harkins

Estill County Engineers junior cheerleader Christian Harkins is one of more than 650 high school cheerleaders and dancers from across the U.S. who will be representing Varsity Spirit in the world famous London New Year's Day Parade. Harkins will be among parade performers from all over the world. The theme of this year's parade is "Show-time!" and will celebrate the greatest shows on earth. Cheerleaders, dancers, marching bands, acrobats and more will make up the 10,000 performers representing 20 countries worldwide in the 2018 parade. See more information on Page 12.



The Body of Christ honors local police officers annually. This year's event was on Friday at Ravenna City Hall. Pastor Bill Wesley, who is also Chaplain of the Ravenna Police Department, presented gifts to the officers for their service. Wendy's donated chili for the officer's lunch. Pictured are, front row, left to right: Ravenna Mayor Estine Tipton, Irvine Sgt. John Sturniolo and K-9 Fritz, School Resource Officer Michael Gross, and Deputy Chris Coffey. Back row, left to right, is Ravenna Chief Ken White, Deputy Daniel Smith, Irvine Mayor W.J. Noland and Constable Ricky Williams.

Police talk about concerns with drugs

Police officers were recognized Friday by the Body of Christ which has become an annual event.

Pastor Bill Wesley and his congregation arrange for a meal and gifts for police officers. But Friday's event took on added meaning as police officers shared their concerns about the drug problem.

"Lots of people don't understand how important our law officials are," said Irvine Mayor W.J. Noland.

He said he remembered when Ravenna had a large population and only two police officers.

Noland told about meeting a retired police officer at a conference. He said the policemen said for the first ten years, his job was serving papers. The man's son is now a police officer and he worries over him daily.

Noland said that Irvine is expecting a 13 percent increase in employees' pension.

He does not know how Irvine will come up with the extra money.

"We must have 24 hour a day law enforcement," he said.

Irvine Sgt. John Sturniolo said he wanted to thank the spouses of the officers.

"They are the ones who are going to listen to us," he stated.

Sturniolo said the drugs have gotten really bad, and there are mind altering drugs

out there. "Things are more bizarre," he stated. "We can't make (our stories) up."

During a recent drug bust, Sturniolo was the lead investigator in which 8.3 ounces of methamphetamine were recovered on Irvine's Main Street.

He was warned that about half of that amount could be fentanyl, which works on the respiratory system.

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Obituaries

Judy Hackworth, 76

Dave Isaacs, 41

Richard Lainhart, 78

Barbara Mink, 74

Burgoyne

Richardson, 84

Teddy Rose, 57

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New Obits at EstillTribune.com

MONDAY



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The Tribune office will be open New Year's Day.