

# Popular children's librarian leaves for job in Lexington



Whitney Hays Johnson, children's library at the Estill County Public Library, was honored with a reception on Thursday. She has resigned to take a similar position at the Lexington Public Library.

A chapter has closed in the book of Whitney Hays Johnson, children's librarian at the Estill County Public Library.

Johnson's last day at the local library was Friday.

She began her new job as children's librarian at the Lexington Public Library on Monday.

Johnson grew up in Iuka, Illinois. She obtained a bachelor's degree at Kentucky Christian College.

She went back to Illinois and got a job as a shelver at a library.

"That was my first job after college," she stated.

"I just loved being around kids, and around books," she stated. "I loved being in Kentucky."

She moved back to Kentucky and obtained her Master's degree in Library Science in May 2014. The following September, she was hired as children's li-

brarian at the Estill County Public Library.

She was single and commuting from Richmond for this job.

She met Joshua Johnson on charmony.com and they married last September.

The paths of their lives were crossing, but they had never met personally. She describes meeting him as "basically a blind date."

While they were together, she talked to him about her friends Kendra and Ryan whom she met while attending UK.

"He finally said, 'I know Kendra and Ryan,'" she stated.

The couple was in Joshua and Whitney's wedding.

"We all went to Southland Christian Church." She added that it was a big church but she had never noticed Joshua there.

Her first apartment was probably within a quarter

mile of the home Joshua owns in Lexington.

After marriage, Miss Whitney moved into the home that Joshua, an electrical engineer, owns.

Commuting to Irvine daily from Lexington helped Miss Whitney make her decision to apply for the job at the Lexington Library.

"She has been fabulous, and she's going to be sorely missed," stated Kathy Watson, head librarian at the Estill County Public Library.

Miss Whitney was creative. Santa just didn't make a usual visit to Storytime. He arrived on the rooftop of the Estill County Library.

Miss Whitney dressed for the special events. This past Christmas she had a Christmas light necklace that she got at Hallmark. She also has some red suspenders that came from a thrift store.

She is constantly watch-

ing to thrift shops at items that she can use at Storytime.

The local library is accepting applications for the children's librarian through May 31. Watson hopes the library board will be able to hire someone when it meets on June 15.

Watson said that Amy Hughes will be filling in for the children's librarian until a new one is hired.

The librarian held a reception for Johnson on Thursday. Irvine resident Myra Finney made a cake for the event. It had two cakes shaped like books on top. The top book had Seuss on the spine and the other one had Johnson. It was for the book they expect Johnson to write someday.

Johnson was surprised at the reception when her husband dropped in unexpectedly. She thought he was working on a job.

## Council votes 4 to 2 against payroll tax

The Irvine Council voted 4-2 during a special meeting Thursday afternoon against a proposed one percent payroll tax.

"(Employees) can't use (their health insurance) because they can't afford to pay a portion out of pocket," stated Councilman O'Brene Richardson who voted in favor of the occupational tax.

Councilman Tobo Bryant said not one employee had stated to him they could not afford to go to the doctor.

Byrant mentioned serious health problems of a family member, and they had made arrangements to make payments.

"I'd like for (the employees) to make more money now," he added.

"We don't have 100 employees who live in the city of Irvine (who work here)," stated Mayor W.J. Noland.

He added the city keeps the snow removed at the hospital and parking lot for employees who live outside city limits to use.

Bryant said the city is wanting jobs in Irvine, and he is afraid another tax on employees will not help.

"Trim. Trim. Trim," said Councilwoman Nelle Williams. She suggested the council look at the garbage rates to see if they are equitable.

Richardson, a former director of Irvine Housing Authority, said the housing project has dumpsters but still has to pay

the city \$15 monthly for garbage for each housing unit.

Renaissance Apartments and Meade Apartments also have dumpsters and their tenants must pay a monthly garbage bill.

"It's the housing authority's decision to put dumpsters in," Bryant stated.

"Let's be fair," Richardson stated. He added that HUD had ordered the dumpsters to be put in.

After the vote against the payroll tax, Bryant explained why he thought Irvine would finish in the black next year.

He stated the first year that Noland was mayor, the city borrowed \$75,000 and paid it back by the next year.

The following year, the city borrowed \$50,000 and paid it back. He said that means the city had gained \$25,000.

"This year, I'm hoping we will be in shape to borrow even less, maybe \$25,000," he stated.

He added a state audit had cost the city \$25,000, a one time cost.

"I'm then hoping in another year we'll be in the black," he stated. "I feel like we're in better shape than when the mayor came in. I'm not saying we don't need more revenues."

The council then discussed the budget before adjourning.

First reading of the budget must be taken by June 1.

## Irvine council talks of how to increase funds

The city clerk of Irvine presented a rough draft of the next fiscal year's to members of the Irvine council on Monday night. The rough draft showed that projected revenues for next year would be about the same as this year's although it had gone down in some areas.

The city clerk, Robin Powell, told the council that as of now there are still about 75 unpaid property tax bills that would add up to about \$12,000. She added that as it stands the city has \$10,196 which does not include fees added onto three accounts that are held at BB&T.

Powell said that she had just received notice about the fees and asked the council how she should proceed. She said that she was told that unless each account had a balance of \$1,500 each month they would be charged \$12 per month on each account.

That would add \$576 onto the budget. Powell said she could transfer money from the general fund into each account to get those accounts where they needed to be.

Councilman Tobo Bryant said he felt like they needed to explore other options such as moving those three accounts to Citizen's Guaranty Bank where the city has two of their accounts. The council agreed that they could not afford to pay the monthly fee on the three ac-

counts and asked Powell to shop around at other local banks.

Councilman Tim Burkhart spoke up and said he felt like the only way they could make the budget work next year would be to pull money from the depreciation account or to raise garbage rates.

After speaking with Billy Williams of IMU, the council found out that there are somewhere between 1,100 to 1,300 customers in the city who currently pay a garbage rate. Councilman Bryant said he felt like they should wait on raising the garbage rate until all members of the council were present.

Councilman Billy Arthur asked if they would be supporting the EDA again this year. He said he felt like as close as they are running on money within the budget that he couldn't see what the EDA had done for the city in the past year.

Burkhart replied that in more prosperous times the city had to have an acting Main Street Manager in order to obtain grants, and he felt like the \$10,000 that the city pays the EDA each year is a fairly small amount of the budget.

"Here we are in a deficit and not able to give raises and provide proper police and fire protection to our citizens. There is some wishy-washy stuff in the contract with the EDA and we can't determine what that money

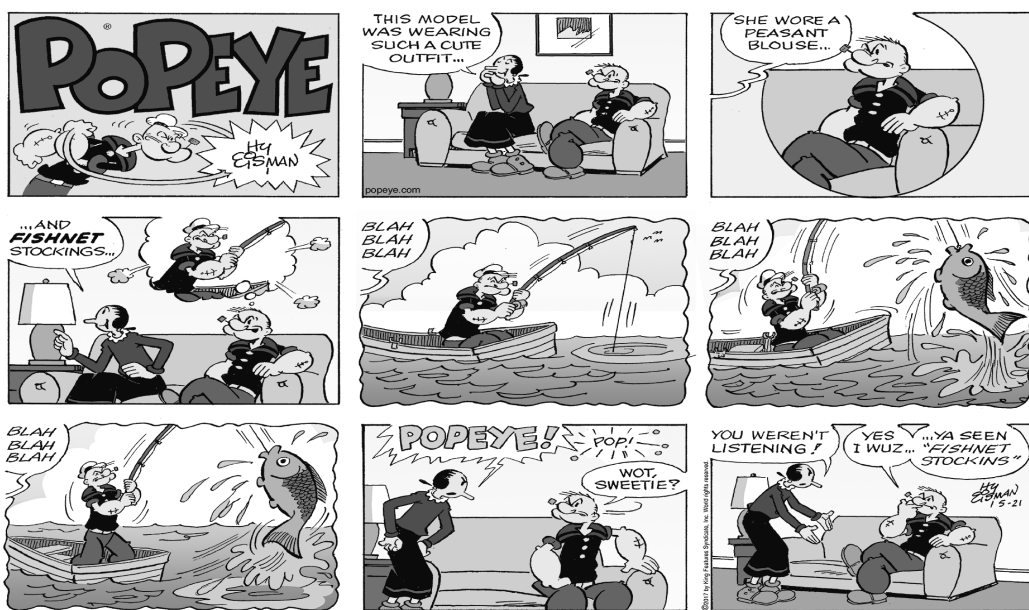
is spent on," stated Councilman O'Brene Richardson.

"I can't see paying for something when we're getting nothing back," added Arthur.

Burkhart asked if the fire department had any luck selling the old fire truck.

Firefighter Chad Neal said that it was listed on several different websites but in order to put it on the government auction site he needed approval from the council to create an account and know what to set the reserve at.

The council agreed that they should set the reserve at \$10,000 and passed a resolution authorizing Neal to set up an account to sell the truck.



**top ten**  
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2. German Shepherd
3. Golden Retriever
4. Bulldog
5. Beagle
6. French Bulldog
7. Poodle
8. Rottweiler
9. Yorkshire Terrier
10. Boxer

Source: AKC, 2017

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## The Estill County Tribune

Estill County	Adj. Counties	Kentucky	Out of State
1 year \$16.04	1 year \$26.42	1 year \$30.19	1 year \$32.00
Sales Tax 0.96	Sales Tax 1.58	Sales Tax 1.81	Sales Tax 0.00
Total \$17.00	Total \$28.00	Total \$32.00	Total \$32.00

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