

# Irvine council delays setting tax rates

by CATHY DAWES  
Estill County Tribune

During the Irvine council meeting on Monday, the council approved the first reading of the amended budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

There were four items listed on the budget that needed to be adjusted but city clerk Robin Powell was unable to attend the meeting to explain to the council why those items needed attention.

City Attorney Rodney Davis said that he felt like it was probably a timing issue where the budget had been approved, then vetoed by the mayor, and approved

again. He said they would have Powell explain it all during the next meeting, and at that time the council would have the second reading of the amended budget.

The council agreed to table the discussion on tax rates until the next meeting as well.

Fire Chief Tony Murphy reported that the aerial fire truck had been listed online by Chad Neal and is hoping that it will sell sometime soon.

Part of the roadway had been dug up on Broadway where construction is going on for a 180 foot tower that will provide high speed in-

ternet to the area.

The council asked if the city of Irvine would receive franchise royalties off of that once it was up and running. Davis said that he would email the woman who negotiates the franchise agreement between the city and Windstream and see what her opinion was on the matter.

The construction along Main Street and Winchester Road has been causing issues for motorists including Councilwoman Janice Bush who had an accident in that area recently.

Councilwoman Nelle Williams said she contacted a friend who works

for the state and asked that markers be put in place so people would know where to turn at. She said that area is dangerous in the daylight and is even worse at night time.

Williams also asked if anything more had been done about the house and trailer that had been discussed during several previous meetings.

Davis said that he felt like the city needed to hire an inspector to come in and that way they would have a valid list of discrepancies.

Councilman Tobo Bryant said that there were many other properties in the city that were almost as

bad and he hated to single one out. He said he felt like the council should prioritize the list of properties that was compiled by Williams and go from there.

Bryant said that he wanted to commend the residents of Irvine who keep their yards mowed and their property maintained. He added that they are usually discussing the properties that need attention but he wanted to thank the homeowners that keep their properties looking good.

Nelle Williams said that during a previous meeting O'Brene Richardson had mentioned that the city needed to backup all of

their documents and files in the event that something happened to the computers at city hall. Williams said that recently her computer crashed and she lost a lot of photos and now she realized how important it is to have a backup system.

Rodney Davis said that the Kentucky League of Cities has a record retention protocol and he suggested that the city adopt and adhere to it. Davis said that it would also come in handy with open records request.

The council will meet again on August 28th at 7 o'clock. All meetings of the council are open to the public.

## IPD rounds up six alleged drug dealers

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Bail was set at \$7,500 cash for Lewis Willis and \$5,000 cash for Earl Willis.

According to court records, L. Willis was arrested on a new offense while a case was pending. An Estill County bench warrant and a Madison County bench warrant were served on Lewis Willis by Irvine Officer Jason Conrad.

District Court William Leach issued the Estill warrant saying L. Willis had not paid fines on speeding 16mph over limit. He can spend three days in jail or pay \$134.50.

Madison District Court Earl Neal said that L. Willis had failed to appear in court there to answer charges of failure to produce insurance card and contempt of court. No bail was set.

Steven Walters, 42, of Sandhill Church Road, Irvine, was arrested Saturday and charged with three counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree.

The citation states that Walters sold heroin, oxycodone, and lortabs to a confidential informant on two separate occasions.

After Walters was arrested Saturday, he was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sgt. Sturniolo wrote in the citation that Walters had 28 syringes, digital scales, baggies, spoons, Q-tips and other drug related items in his possession.

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Arraignments have been scheduled for Wednesday in Estill District Court.

## All A Classic moves back to Richmond

The Kentucky All "A" Classic is coming back to Eastern Kentucky University.

Eastern hosted the small-school basketball tournament for boys' and girls' teams from 1991 to 2011. The Frankfort Convention Center has hosted the event the past six years.

The decision, which followed a meeting of the All "A" Classic Board of Directors, was announced on Saturday, Aug. 12, at a news conference at Alumni Coliseum, which will serve as the event venue.

"We are very pleased that the Kentucky All 'A' Classic statewide basketball tournament is returning to Richmond and ECU for the 2018, 2019, and 2020 seasons," said Stan Steidel, chair of the All "A" board.

"The efforts of Eastern Kentucky University, the City of Richmond, Richmond Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce have made this event possible. The Kentucky All 'A' Classic is appreciative of this partnership, and we look forward to renewing our proud tradition in Richmond and ECU."

The 120 smallest schools in the Commonwealth will vie to compete in the annual Classic. Thirty-two teams, cheerleaders, students, school personnel, fans and others will converge on

Richmond for the five-day event, which next year will be held Jan. 24-28. It is expected to attract more than 30,000 to the ECU campus and surrounding communities.

"Eastern was proud to host the All 'A' Classic for 20 years, and we are excited to welcome the event back to our campus and community," ECU President Michael Benson said.

The first Kentucky Class "A" Tournament was held at Holy Cross High School in Latonia in 1980, with eight teams participating. In 1981, it moved to Bellevue High School with 10 teams, all from northern Kentucky. The Classic went statewide in 1982, inviting six Class A schools from around Kentucky to compete with 10 northern Kentucky schools. In 1990, a statewide tournament featuring 16 boys' teams competed in Lexington. The following year, the Classic expanded to include a field of 16 boys' regional winners and four girls' sectional winners competing in statewide finals. The event expanded to include eight girls' teams in 1992, and the current format was adopted in 1993.

The All "A" Classic also features a cheerleading competition among the participating squads.

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"It's not silly if things are being done according to the law," replied William Vance.

VanCleve went on to ask if the mayor had ever heard anything about the lease agreement between CSX and the park. Mayor Tipton said that she had been in contact with someone from Frankfort and had been told that several people in that department had been let go and they had not had a chance to work on it.

VanCleve said that the lease agreement between the city had been signed in 2004 by Charles Crowe and had expired in 2010 and he felt like the city was encroaching on CSX property by having park equipment on land that did not belong to him. He added that the only land the city actually owns at the park

is located between 5th and 6th Street.

Sharon Snowden said that the concern that she had with the park is that it is an insurance liability for the city. She said that she didn't want to see any of the playground equipment moved but she did want the city to renegotiate a lease with CSX on the property.

A lengthy discussion was held about the time sheets belonging to Michael Gross who works for the city as well as the school district. Several discrepancies on Gross' time sheets raised questions among the council especially about overtime pay.

Mayor Tipton said that there was an agreement that any over time that was worked would not be put on a paycheck but would be taken in comp time.

## Ravenna discusses lease on park property

VETERANS POST  
by Freddy Groves

A new GI Bill has been in the works, and now it's here. Dubbed the Forever GI Bill, it corrects many of the problems and inadequacies of previous veteran education-benefits legislation.

In an amazing show of cooperation, both the House and Senate pushed through the final bill in only a few weeks. There was snarling along the way, but they got it done.

The biggest change? There will no longer be a 15-year limit on using educational benefits. Veter-

ans who have been out for years and realize they need more education to progress in their careers will now be able to do it.

Here are some other changes:

- \* The Yellow Ribbon Program, which provides benefits to surviving spouses and dependents of service members who died in the line of duty, are expanded.

- \* Veterans who were partway through their education when their school abruptly closed will be able to have benefits restored for any credits that don't transfer.

- \* Reservists and Purple Heart recipients will now get their benefits.

- \* Veterans who seek degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) will get more benefits, either a lump sum or nine extra months of benefits.

- \* Schools will be required to train those who help enroll veterans, and to provide more campus vocation and educational counseling.

One potential glitch: To pay for all this, living stipends will be decreased so they're equal to active-duty service members' housing

allowances.

None of this happens today. Some changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2018, and some next August. Some might not happen for a few years. But it's there; it's in writing.

If you hear the legislation title The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 and wonder who Colmery is, he was the commander of the American Legion who originally wrote (by hand) the GI Bill ... back in 1944. You have him to thank.

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## New GI Bill Boosts Benefits

## Police Activity Report

Ashley Hall, 27, of 332 Turner Avenue, Irvine, was arrested Saturday after the vehicle in which she was a passenger was stopped on Locomotive Street by Sgt. John Sturniolo. The city's K-9 officer Fritz alerted on the vehicle.

The citation states that Hall had a baggie of methamphetamine in her front pocket. It adds that she threw the baggie in an attempt to conceal it from law enforcement.

It also states that Hall had two 600 mg ibuprofen in her front pocket, along with a cut straw.

She told the officer that she had just had a C-section. Hall was charged with possession of a controlled substance, first (methamphetamine), illegal possession of a legend drug (600 mg Ibuprofen), tampering with physical evidence, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

\* An indictment warrant was served August 7 by Chief Brad Smith on Kristy R. Henry, 41, of 125 S. Hudson Avenue, Irvine. The indictment charges Henry with

forgery second degree and theft by deception, including cold checks.

\* A 32 year old female was charged with second degree burglary August 9 by KSP Trooper Ty Robinson.

The trooper said he was called to 1110 Mt. Scratchum Road. The homeowner, Brenda Nichols, told him that she had returned home and found Ashley Rogers, 15 Stone Fox Lane, Ravenna, sitting inside her home and eating peanuts.

Rogers stated she had come through the back window, but claimed it was her house.

Trooper Robinson said he walked up to the door, but Rogers had locked it. Rogers did come and unlock it for him.

He asked her what she was doing there. She continuously claimed that she lived in the residence.

She was arrested and lodged in the Clark County Detention Center.

Rogers was arraigned August 11 in Estill District Court where she pleaded not-guilty.

A public defender was

appointed for her and a preliminary hearing was set for August 16.

Rogers' bail was set at \$1,000 cash.

\* A criminal summons was served July 31 on William S. Hunter, 52, of 2755 Harris Ferry Road, Irvine by Deputy Chris Coffey.

The complaint charges Hunter with making a false statement to prevent reduction of benefits.

The complaint states that between 12/21/2013 and 2/15/2014 Hunter received

unemployment benefits while working for the Red Roof Inn.

Hunter allegedly owes \$1,643.88 for the benefits he received.

The charge is a Class D felony, punishable by fine and one to five years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Emma Wireman d/b/a the Division of Unemployment.

An arraignment was scheduled Sept. 20 in Estill District Court for Hunter.



**The swamp sunflower** grows throughout North America near bogs, ponds, lakes or rivers. Its flowers, which feature bright yellow petals and dark centers, appear in early autumn and draw butterflies, bees, and other nectar feeders. Caterpillars, cutworms and other pests feed on the plant as well.

Source: [www.easylwildflowers.com](http://www.easylwildflowers.com), [www.finegardening.com](http://www.finegardening.com)