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Three House Fires, Three Days



Estill County Fire Chief Derrick Muncie called a mobile home fire on Leighton Road on Monday night suspicious. The homeowner, Russell Smith, recently passed away, and the mobile home did not have utilities connected. Anyone with information on the fire may contact Chief Muncie at 723-2661.
Photo courtesy of Cathey Sparks

The first of three house fires occurred on Saturday on Elmer Richardson Road. Fire Chief Derrick Muncie estimated the home was a total loss.

While responding to this fire, Hargett Fire Chief Rob Forehand was injured when he slipped from a ladder. He was treated and released from the hospital.

Muncie said the first fire occurred at about the same time they were working two accidents on Richmond Road. One involved a state trooper being injured and there was a fatality in the other accident.

All three homes were reported as total losses.



Estill County Firefighters Chad Neal and Shawn Riddell look at a house which burned Monday morning on Mt. Zion Road. The family living in the home lost everything. The cause of this fire and the one Saturday are not being considered as suspicious.
Photo courtesy of Estill Co. Fire Dept.

Petition on "recallable nickle" has "insufficient" signatures; meaning no special election

The number of signatures turned in to recall a "nickle" tax passed by the Estill County Board of Education was "insufficient," according to County Clerk Sherry L. Fox.

The petition was turned in on Monday, July 31, the last day. The deadline was 45 days after the board voted to pass the "recallable nickle."

The petition had 577 signatures and only 573 were required. The number required is set by law as one-tenth of the voters in the last election.

Fox had 30 days to verify the signatures and to make sure they complied with the law. She completed the canvas of signatures

on Friday. The petition was checked for required items. A person had to sign their name and print it. They had to either give either their social security number or date of birth, and the precinct they vote in.

Fox had to eliminate voters who did not comply with all of the above. Then she said there were 21 who had signed twice.

She determined there were only 324 valid signatures on the petition.

This means there will not likely be election. Fox said the five member committee who asked for the petition can file an appeal within 10 days in Estill Circuit Court.

IPD arrests two for trafficking in drugs

The Irvine Police Department, Kentucky State Police and sheriff's deputies returned to Dark Hollow Road on Sunday evening.

After many hours of investigation on the property, IPD arrested the parents of a man they arrested on July 20. The lead investigator in this case was Sgt. John Sturmiolo.

Ronnie G. Abney, 64, and Betty Abney, 60, were arrested and lodged in the Three Forks Detention Center and Clark County Jail, respectively.

The parents live in a house at 993 Dark Hollow Road. Their son, Kevin Scott Abney, 39, lives in a mobile home next door at 999 Dark Hollow Road.

Ronnie Abney was charged with three counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree (methamphetamine over 2 grams, heroin over 2 grams, and over 10 units of oxycodone); trafficking in a controlled substance, third degree (over 20 units xanax); conspiracy to traffic in a controlled substance, first degree; two counts of possession of a controlled substance, first degree (methamphetamine and heroin); trafficking in a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school; possession of drug paraphernalia; wanton endangerment; tampering with physical evidence; and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Mr. Abney's citation states that he gave a bag of illegal drugs to a confidential informant working for the Irvine Police Department. It allegedly contained 1.5 oz. methamphetamine, 3 grams of heroin, 60-70 30mg. Oxycodone, and 130 xanax pills.

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Ronnie G. Abney

School board approves policy for medical director

by CATHY DAWES
The Estill County Tribune

A special meeting of the Estill County school board was called on August 3rd to discuss topics that needed immediate attention.

During the last board meeting Dr. Vivian Ong was appointed as medical director of the district while still utilizing the school nurses who are currently employed. The current policy had to be amended to reflect that change and to also allow nurses to supply basic treatment and over the counter medications to students when there is a

need for it.

Superintendent Jeff Saylor said Dr. Ong may also set up a telemedicine at one of the schools as well, but for now with the uncertainty of healthcare that will be something that they look at in the future. The second reading of the policy revision will be read on August 17th.

An emergency certification was granted by the board to fill a vacancy within the district. Mr. Saylor said that at this point they really have no other option because the vacancy must be filled.

The person that was granted the emer-

gency certification will be hired as a substitute while they are waiting on their college certification. He said the paperwork from the college should be in by the end of the month.

Mr. Saylor said that the petition pertaining to the 'recallable nickel' had been turned in to the county clerk's office with approximately 600 signatures on it. He said that Sherry Fox was still in the process of verifying the signatures on the petition and could possibly have that completed sometime on Friday. He said it was up to board at this point whether or not they proceed with

the election if the signatures are valid.

"Will this give us enough time to meet the deadline for the first tax bill? I have been told that if not then it's up to us to pay for the second tax bill and postage," stated Board member L.W. Beckley.

Mr. Saylor said that they would be able to meet the deadline because the tax bills don't have to be mailed until October 1st. He said that the election would be held on a Tuesday during the month of September either on the 12th or the 19th depending on what day the petition is verified.

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Obituaries

- Ralph Barnes, 80
- Thomas Chaney, 35
- Sharon Clark, 67
- Ella Johnson, 95
- Ruby Lynch, 74
- Michael Riddell, 61
- Yvonne White, 70

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New Obits at EstillTribune.com

At right is a photo that Kentucky State Police released of a cruiser that was involved in a wreck Saturday morning around 11:30 a.m. on Highway 52 near Winston. The trooper, who was unofficially identified as Austin Brashear, was treated and released from the hospital.

The name and condition of the other driver involved in this wreck has not been publicly released.

A second collision involving a motorcycle and a truck occurred nearby on KY 52 around 12:40 p.m. The motorcycle operator was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead from his injuries.

The deceased man was identified as 61 year old Michael Riddell of Irvine. He was the first traffic fatality in Estill County for 2017.

The name of the driver of the vehicle involved in the collision with the motorcycle has also not been released.

Both wrecks remain under investigation by Kentucky State Police.

