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Fiscal court makes tough financial decisions Most jail employees can expect to be laid off February 8

The Estill Fiscal Court made some tough financial decisions during a special meeting on Monday afternoon.

Judge/Executive Kevin Williams briefly summed up the county's financial situation.

"Our inflows and outflows are terrible," he stated.

The magistrates voted to pre-authorize Williams to obtain a debt consolidation loan from KACO (Kentucky Association of Counties).

"KACO is willing to work with us and combine all our debts into one loan," Williams said.

County Attorney Rodney Davis emphasized the county will not incur any additional liabilities with the KACO loan.

Williams plans to ask for a ten-year loan from KACO, but said he wants the county to repay the money sooner.

"We need to get August and September bills caught up," Williams stated. "We're going to run lean."

"Hopefully, by the end of the fiscal year, there will be light at the end of the tunnel," he added.

The fiscal court also approved for Williams to get a Visa Credit Card through Citizens Guaranty Bank to be used for emer-

gencies. The card will have a \$1,500 limit and only two people will be authorized to sign it.

An example of using the card given by Williams was if a truck broke down and the county needed a part for it.

The fiscal court then approved a contract with Three Forks Regional Jail in Beattyville to house Estill County prisoners. That jail will charge \$32 per day per prisoner, but Estill must pay for a minimum of 50 prisoners per day.

"I'm tickled to death with \$32," Williams stated. "They were very neighborly." That jail has housed most male inmates

from Estill County since the local jail closed last March. Females were incarcerated at Clark County at a cost of \$100 per day. That jail later dropped the cost to \$65 a day per female inmate.

Since last September, Estill County had been negotiating with Powell County Jail to take all Estill inmates when that jail opened a new wing.

The Estill Fiscal Court had offered to pay Powell County \$35 a day per inmate with a minimum of 50 inmates, but apparently negotiations broke down, possibly over Estill County's financial situation.

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Superintendent predicts funding and staff cuts

The Estill County Board of Education approved a draft budget at last Thursday's board meeting.

This was required by law, but Supt. Jeff Saylor said the final budget will be approved in May. That budget takes effect on July 1.

"We're going to have to make some cuts," Saylor stated.

He said the district has lost another 50 students.

Cuts in state grant programs are proposed, along with a reduction in transportation funds.

"If this continues, you will see forced mergers of school districts," he said.

The final budget will include funding for schools provided by the state legislature.

Supt. Saylor presented a chart from the board's bonding firm on how bond issues would affect the local school district if enrollment continued to decline.

According to the prediction, the school district would be in the hole around 2035 if students continue to move.

This was requested by Board Member L.W. Beckley at the last regular board meeting.

A nutrition and physical activity report was approved, as was the district improvement plan.

Courtney Barnes of the Estill County Health Department was given approval to teach Youth Development

Curriculum at the Estill County Middle School.

This is to respond to a high number of teen pregnancies, including among eighth graders.

It is a week course, and parents can opt out their students. Abstinence from sexual activity is the expected outcome.

Approval was also given for "Alive at 25," a driver safety training which will be taught by Det. Hector Alcalá of Kentucky State Police.

Optional calendars for the 2018-19 school year were presented. Staff and parents will be voting on a calendar.

Saylor discussed a need for starting school later in August because of roofing programs at the middle school and Estill Springs.

If this year ends later because of days missed for bad weather, a starting delay may be needed.

Once the calendar is adopted, the board cannot go back and cancel fall break.

"People really like that fall break option," said Vice Chair Donna Isfort.

Beckley brought up how hot the buses are when school starts in early August.

Saylor said he is also concerned with the daily starting times of the schools because some students are picked up before 6 a.m.

He would like to see the board change the starting times to 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

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KMEA Teacher of The Year



Samuel Adams was named the Ky. Music Education Association (KMEA) Teacher of the Year. He is in his third year teaching music at Estill County High School. Supt. Jeff Saylor said he thinks Adams was chosen because he has started guitar classes at the schools.

Candidates file to run for elected positions

Filing for county offices continues through 4 p.m. next Tuesday in the office of County Clerk Sherry L. Fox at the courthouse.

Several candidates have completed their paperwork as of noon this past Monday.

Among the new candidates is Dwight E. Richardson, a republican, who is seeking the office of Judge/Executive of Estill County.

Ernest L. Morris, a democrat, has filed to run for County Clerk.

Douglas Dooley, a democrat, has filed to run for Magistrate in District 3.

Derrick Muncie, a democrat, is seeking a seat on the Irvine Council.

There are six council seats and all will be vacant. The council serves a two year term.

Store employee arrested after men shoplift there

A Dark Hollow woman was arrested Friday and charged with theft by deception by KSP Trooper Casey Caudill.

Susan Stepp, 27, was arrested on a warrant obtained earlier by Caudill after a Dec. 17 incident at Dollar General where Stepp was an employee.

According to the warrant, Stepp was paid \$20 by a female to allow two men

to shoplift two full buggies of merchandise from the store. The merchandise was valued at \$700.

One of the men has been charged with the theft.

The charge against Stepp is a felony because the merchandise was valued at over \$500.

Stepp was lodged in the Three Forks Regional Jail where her bond was set at \$1,000 cash.

Obituaries
 Gary Hardy, 62
 Patricia Henry, 69
 Bobby L. Rose, 83
 Glenna Stevens, 59
 Alphie Tipton, 91
 Nancy Wilson, 95
 See Page 6
 New Obits at EstillTribune.com

Public Forum
 The Concerned Citizens of Estill County (CCEC) invite everyone to attend a public forum to review the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) submitted by the Advanced Disposal landfill.
 The forum will be held at the Estill County Agriculture Extension Office on January 29, 2018 at 6:30 PM. The office is located at 76 Golden Court, off of Stacy Lane Rd.



Yvette Young, standing left, was recognized Thursday as the Community Mountain Mover by Estill County Schools. She is the owner of Playtime Day Care in Irvine, which is in its 20th year of business. School buses drop off students at the day care until parents can pick their children up.