



Estine Tipton



Jason Bowles

School board schedules a meeting for Thursday to hear concerns

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He also said that they have made cuts in almost every area possible and the issue is the decline in enrollment.

He added that if things continued going south with the budget, then they would have to look at making cuts at Central Office and that even though most of those jobs are specific jobs they would have to look at possibly combining some of them in the future.

Options for the school calendar for the 2018-2019 school year had been posted on social media to allow individuals to vote on what they felt like was the best option.

Beckley made a motion to accept option #4 which would give students a two day fall break, two full weeks off at Christmas, and a full spring break. The board could not come to an agreement on the calendar and decided it would be best to put the survey back up and let people vote again and then make a decision at the meeting in March.

The board approved for the start and end times to be changed for the new school year. Mr. Saylor said that the problem he had with the current time is that some students are being picked up at 6 a.m. by the school bus. He said with the new start time no student should be picked up before 6:30 each morning.

Beckley asked if this new time would affect people who worked in Richmond or Lexington and if there would be adequate staff at the schools for those who dropped their student off. Saylor replied that there would be adequate staff there and that per district policy each employee is supposed to arrive at work 30 minutes prior to the start of school.

Nelle Williams, a spokesperson for the Alumni Group, approached the board about the possibility of turning the old Irvine High School into a living facility for the elderly.



Samantha Rawlins

She said that she knows Holly Wiedemann who does nothing but revitalize old school buildings and turns them into apartments and that she does wonderful work. Irvine Grade School Apartments is one of those projects and Williams asked the board if they would revisit the possibility of selling the building for a similar project.

Joyce Rifembark, a concerned parent, spoke to the board about some issues that had happened at the high school in the previous week. Rifembark stated that she was very concerned about sending her four children to school since there had been so much going on at the high school. She said that she had even kept them at home on Monday because she didn't feel like it was safe to send them to school. Rifembark asked the board if they would consider holding a special meeting with parents to discuss some of those issues.

Superintendent Saylor said that there had been one direct threat this week made by a student to another student and there had been some social media posts that were questionable and they were taking those things very seriously. He added that there was no conspiracy going on and that he didn't care who the student was, even if it was the child of a board member, they were all going to be handled the same way.

"Your concerns are our concerns," added Saylor.

The board went into closed session per KRS 61.810 for the purpose of discussion which may lead to the appointment, discipline, or the dismissal of an individual student or employee.

A public forum to discuss parents' concerns has been scheduled since the meeting on Thursday night. The meeting will be held on March 1st at 6 o'clock at the Estill County High School auditorium.

Men arrested for drugs

Aaron David Stone, 19, of Old Medford Way, Irvine was arrested on drug related charges Feb. 21 by Chief Brad Smith.

The chief said he received a report of two males sitting in a vehicle in the library parking lot and the caller said the men were doing drugs.

Smith stated the driver consented to a vehicle search. He found a white brownish powder in a bag in the driver's door. The

substance field tested positive for meth.

Other items located were a suspected simulated controlled substance, plastic bags, pipes and a scale.

Stone was charged with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, possession for sale/transfer of a simulated substance, and drug paraphernalia buy/possess.

Stone's bail was set at \$2,500 cash.

He pleaded not-guilty

during his arraignment on Friday. He will return for a preliminary hearing on Feb. 28.

The passenger was identified Makel Adams aka Michael Adams, 18, of Irvine.

He was charged with possession for sale/transfer of a simulated control substance, drug paraphernalia buy/possession, and possession of marijuana.

Sgt. John Sturniolo assisted with the investigation.

Three waive indictments

Three men have waived indictments on felony charges before the Estill County Grand Jury.

Jeff Gross, 32, of N. Plum Street, Irvine waived an indictment on a charge of possession of a controlled substance first degree.

The waiver states that he had methamphetamine in his possession on January

31. Dills Berryman, 39, of Lebanon waived an indictment on possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

According to the waiver, he had a firearm in his possession on January 31.

Joshua Harrison, 36, of Richmond waived an indictment for flagrant non-support.

The waiver states that he had failed to pay court ordered child support as of December 22, 2017.

All of the above offenses are Class D felonies, punishable by one to five years in prison.

Upon waiving indictments, the men will receive sentences in Estill Circuit Court.

Judge announces road work at court meeting

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Joe Crawford of Estill Development Alliance reported to the fiscal court.

He said EDA is working on an Opportunity Zone Proposal, similar to the Enterprise Zones of years ago. One approved, there will be an opportunity to offer tax incentives.

He also discussed selling equipment, such as large tanks, pumps and fittings, that was to be used by Green Earth Bio Fuels.

Williams said this will free up building space which the county needs because it has about a half-million in equipment sitting outside on

Old Pike.

The judge said the county will no longer hold surplus auction sales. Items declared surplus will be pictured and listed on a site called gov-bids.com that is also used by the state.

A truck used by the Estill Shelter will be the first item placed on this site.

Williams said it will cost too much to repair the truck, and Tommy Mullen has been using his personal truck at the shelter.

The fiscal court will also hire a part-time employee to feed the animals on the weekends.

The court will also be

advertising for a full-time dispatcher to be paid with CSEPP funds.

The court approved the bid for an architect to design a safe room at the Emergency Operations Center. The room was requested by CSEPP and will be paid for out of CSEPP funds.

Williams asked the magistrates to come back with names for a seven to nine person committee to look at the county's personnel and administrative codes.

He added there will be a special court meeting in seven to ten days to pay claims after the county receives a \$500,000 loan from KACO.

Community Prayer Service

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He stated the Gideons pass out New Testaments to fifth graders and high school graduates.

Bonny said the Supreme Court has ruled that teachers cannot lead Bible readings and prayers.

But he said any student or employee can do so.

"Why do people wait to the last minute to pray?" asked Pastor Wesley.

He stated the churches have been silent for too long.

"Prayer is usually the last thing we resort to," he stated. "It should be the first thing."

Wesley referred to the recent school shootings.

"It's a sin problem," he stated. "It's not an AR-15 problem. Prayer is a warfare."

He mentioned that children should honor their parents, and everyone should respect the president, the leaders of the county, and their pastors.



Pastor Bill Wesley of Body of Christ spoke during Saturday's Community Prayer Service.

2 charged with having drugs

A driver and passenger were arrested Thursday by the Irvine Police Department on drug related charges.

Officer Brian Cloyd said he observed a 2001 Pontiac traveling west on River Drive at 20 mph, and the vehicle crossed the center line twice.

The officer activated his emergency lights. Officer Cloyd said the driver slammed on his brakes and came to a stop.

The officer said the driver was sweating profusely. When he stepped out of the vehicle, the officer said a small white pill fell onto the ground.

The pill was identified as Oxycodone by Poison Con-

trol Center.

Cloyd stated the man failed field sobriety tests. He was transported to Marcum & Wallace Hospital for a blood draw but refused it.

The driver, Danny Ray Johnson, 38, of Berea, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence, possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, reckless driving, and prescription of a controlled substance not in proper container.

Officer Colton Lewis wrote in a citation that when Misty Michelle Bowles, 39, of Little Rock Road, Irvine stepped out of the vehicle, there was a small oval pill in

her seat. It was also identified as Oxycodone.

After being placed under arrest, Bowles told the officer that she had a pill bottle in her pants. The citation states that it had no label.

Officer Lewis charges Bowles with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, and public intoxication.

Johnson and Bowles were arraigned in Estill District Court on Friday. Both of them pleaded not guilty to their charges.

Preliminary hearings were set for February 28.

District Judge William "Bo" Leach set bail for Bowles at \$1,000 cash or \$2,000 property.

Police Activity Report

Mike Murphy, 43, of Broadway, Irvine was arrested on an Estill County bench warrant charging him with flagrant non-support. The warrant said he has not made a child support payment since August 4, 2014 and is in arrears of \$4,268.33.

Murphy pled not-guilty during his arraignment on Friday in Estill District Court. His preliminary hearing is set for May 16.

An arrest warrant charged Richard D. Banks, 52, with flagrant non support. It states he has not made a payment since June 5, 2017 and owes \$20,883.41. Banks pled not-guilty and will return for a preliminary hearing on Feb. 28.

His bond has been set at \$5,000 cash.

Rachel Shyann Crouch, 26, of Pea Ridge Road, Irvine was arrested Feb. 25 at Marcum & Wallace Hospital by Officer Brian Cloyd.

He charged her with public intoxication of a controlled substance, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest.

Lindsey T. Jones, 22, of Richmond was served with a Madison County bench warrant on Feb. 23 by IPD Chief Brad Smith. She had failed to appear in Madison District Court to answer three traffic related charges.

Brandon Henry, 19, of Richmond was cited for speeding 18 mph over limit, fleeing or evading police, second degree, disregarding stop sign, and failure to improper signal by Officer Colton Lewis.

Lewis said that Henry was driving 53 mph on River Drive.

When he activated his emergency equipment, the officer stated the vehicle made an aggressive right hand turn onto Madison Ave and failed to stop at a stop sign on Broadway.

He added the vehicle turned and went down Broadway the wrong way. He said the 2012 Subaru Outback then turned into a church parking lot at Broadway and Plum to hide from him.

A Madison County bench warrant was served on Michael S. Fox, 29, of Irvine on Feb. 22 by Officer Cloyd.

The warrant says Fox is in contempt of court, apparently owing \$2,733.13 in child support.