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Lawsuit is filed over fatal DUI crash

A fatal wreck has resulted in a civil lawsuit being filed in Estill Circuit Court on May 4.

The lawsuit was filed by Paula Watson, administrator of the estate of General James Bowen, and Mason Powell, who was Bowen's passenger. Watson was the mother of Bowen.

Named as defendants in the lawsuit were Austin Shockley, driver of the vehicle which collided with

Bowen's vehicle, Charles W. Shockley of Irvine, owner of the vehicle, Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Co. and Kentucky National Insurance Company.

Bowen was pronounced deceased at the wreck scene October 15. It occurred on the Joseph Proctor Bypass.

The lawsuit states that Bowen's passenger, Powell, was severely and permanently injured during the collision.

The lawsuit adds that when the wreck occurred, Shockley was operating his vehicle under the influence of intoxicants and/or drugs.

Bowen's vehicle was insured by Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. The lawsuit states the policy contained benefits for under-insured motorist coverage for which the plaintiffs are entitled.

The lawsuit adds that Powell was covered with a

household policy through Kentucky National Insurance Company which also contained benefits for under-insured motorist coverage.

The plaintiffs are seeking a judgment that exceeds the minimum jurisdictional requirements of circuit court, a trial by jury, and any and all relief that is proper.

The plaintiffs are represented by Teddy L. Flynt of Flynt Law Office in Salyersville. A lawsuit presents only

one side of a story.

Shockley, 23, was indicted in February on charges of murder, first degree assault, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

The indictment listed a Ravenna address, but the indictment was served on Shockley in Ohio. Sheriff Gary Freeman picked him up at the Butler County Jail and returned him to Estill County.

He was released from custody and is allowed to be in Ohio as a condition of his bail.

The civil lawsuit listed him with an address in Vandalia, Ohio.

A superseding indictment was returned against Shockley on May 8. It adds a charge of possession of marijuana to the original charges.

The fatal crash was investigated by KSP Trooper Casey Caudill.

Grand Jury indicts ten

Ten indictments were returned by the Estill County Grand Jury on Tuesday, May 8 on various felony offenses.

Jeffrey S. McQueen, 33, of Glyn Court, Irvine was charged by indictment with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs, third offense and driving DUI suspended license, second offense on June 3, 2016.

Former Deputy Sheriff Daniel Smith was the arresting officer.

Jeremiah Hix, 38, of Ravenna was indicted for trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree, second or greater offense and being a first degree persistent felony offender.

The indictment states that on April 24, 2017, Hix sold methamphetamine to a confidential informant for \$40. He has been convicted previously of two felony offenses.

IPD Sgt. John Sturmiolo was the investigating officer.

An indictment charges 45 year old John Earl Fowler, 45, with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The indictment says that Fowler had a shotgun in his possession on February 28 while being a convicted felon.

The investigation was conducted by KSP Trooper Ty Robinson.

A twelve count indictment was returned against Billy Joe Caudill, 34, of Beattyville as

the result of a police pursuit on March 28.

Caudill was indicted for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs, fleeing or evading police, first degree (motor vehicle), theft by unlawful taking - auto, \$10,000 or more, wanton endangerment, first degree, three counts of wanton endangerment, second degree of a police officer, first degree criminal mischief, speeding 20 mph over limit, reckless driving, failure to wear seat belts, and first degree persistent felony offender.

According to the indictment, Caudill took a 1999 Dodge Ram 2500 Dually pickup truck belonging to Jason Cox. He then created a risk of substantial danger or death to Cox and Troopers Ty Robinson, John Northern, and Derek Lovett.

Damages were reported to the pickup truck.

A five count indictment was returned against Clifford S. Conkwright, 44, of Clay City.

The charges include operating on a suspended or revoked operator's license, failure to wear seat belts, failure of owner to maintain required insurance, first offense, fleeing or evading police, first degree (motor vehicle), and second degree persistent felony offender on March 4.

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Alice @ Wonderland



Leslie Harris is directing her first play, "Alice@Wonderland." She is proud to present the fruit of much shared labor to the community.

Alice @ Wonderland

Follow me, if you dare, for a short adventure into a world like no other. First, let us tumble down a rabbit hole and into a place called Wonderland. What would happen if a modern day Alice fell into the same old Wonderland? Come join us and find out! River City Player's is proud to present "Alice@Wonderland", a modern twist on Lewis Carroll's timeless classic Alice in Wonderland.

"Alice@Wonderland", by Jonathan Yukich and produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Denver, Colorado, is RCP's first ever all-youth play—director to cast! Our cast ranges from age 5 to 16. Come meet us in the Estill County High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 18th and the 20th at 3:00 p.m.; we'll lead you on an adventure you won't forget. Ticket prices will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, 6 and under are free. We've enjoyed bringing "Alice@Wonderland" to life and look forward to seeing you soon!

Director: Leslie Harris (pictured below)

Leslie Harris's fascination with the stage began six years ago, after seeing her first play at the Lexington Children's Theater. It was love. Soon she attended River City Player (RCP)'s theater camp, which led to acting roles, and the delightfully addictive spiral continued: RCP taught her much about acting and acting about herself. Christmas 2017 gifted Leslie the opportunity to work as the Assistant Director in "The Rented Christmas"; that experience and the continued support of RCP prepared Leslie to direct her first play, "Alice@Wonderland." Leslie is deeply appreciative of the talent and hard work of her cast has poured into the production and is proud to present the fruit of much shared labor to the community.

Obituaries

**Pamela
Brandenburg, 61
Bradford Doyle, 74
Joyce Hall, 85
Jeanette McClure, 65
James Moninger, 85
Jerry Rice, 68
Bertha Riddell, 75
Darrell Stamper, 57**

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New Obits at
EstillTribune.com

Council questions retirement expense and SRO pay

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staff Writer

Louis Officer, a former council member, spoke at the Ravenna meeting on Monday night about a barn and a house within city limits that he believes is a safety hazard. The structures are located on 4th street and he said that both structures have loose tin on the roof and that when the wind blows it stands straight up.

Officer said that there are children that play near the structures and he's afraid that a piece of tin might blow off and injure someone. Mayor Estine Tipton said that she was aware of the situation and that she had spoken to the city attorney about what

to do about the problem.

Larry Henry said that over \$1,200 had been raised to purchase flags for Veteran's graves. Henry also announced that on June 30th there will be a car show and a burn out held at the American Legion. At dusk they will perform a flag burning ceremony to retire any of the old flags. These events will be followed up by a firework show.

During the financial report Councilman William VanCleve questioned the amount of retirement that is paid in each month. City clerk Ashley Moore said that they have five employees but one of those employees is inactive at this time. Van Cleve

said that from July 2017 to present the city has paid in over \$37,000 in retirement.

Moore explained that a lot of that was due to the previous city clerk not making payments like she should have been and those late payments had accrued over \$10,000 in fees that had to be paid as well. Moore said they had been really good about working with her considering the situation and had knocked \$5,000 off of the late fees.

Moore also explained that there had been a misunderstanding with the retirement payments for Michael Gross. His father had been an employee of the city of Ravenna in previous years

and Gross' retirement payments were actually going into his father's account instead of his. Moore said that now that everything has been straightened out and all late fees have been paid the city should see a consistent payment each month on the financial report of \$1,907.31.

An amendment to the payroll ordinance was tabled until next month because Van Cleve deemed that the addition of the SRO officer was not legal. He also questioned why Gross made more money than other officers.

Mayor Tipton said that she had talked to the attorney and he said it was fine to add the SRO to the ordinance as a line item and that his pay was

more than an officer who had just been hired because of his extensive training.

Van Cleve responded that the city didn't have a payroll ordinance to amend and that it was illegal to add the line item to an ordinance that didn't exist. Tipton said that she would contact the lawyer once again and get it in writing as to what the council should do.

"Is he going back to \$9.50 an hour?" asked Councilmember Sharon Snowden.

"No, he has been trained," replied Tipton.

A second look at the tentative budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was reviewed by the council.

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