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New mayor of Irvine is sworn into office

James Gross was sworn in as the new mayor of Irvine on Friday morning.

He was appointed unanimously by the Irvine Council during a special meeting.

This same council had declared the mayor's office as vacant during their regular meeting last Monday.

The declaration of vacancy came on the advice of City Attorney Rodney Davis who said that Kentucky Revised Statutes required this action if the mayor is absent from office for 60 consecutive days, for whatever reason.

The former mayor, W.J. Noland, has now been hospitalized for approximately 70 days.

Three council members went to the hospital and visited with Noland before Friday's meeting. They were Janice Bush, Nelle Williams, and Billy Arthur.

"W.J. asked that someone be appointed to his position," stated Councilwoman Williams.

In Noland's absence, Councilman Tobo

Bryant had been serving as Mayor Pro Tem.

Bryant explained this title only allowed him to preside over council meetings. It gave him no executive authority.

During Noland's absence, decisions normally made by the mayor had to be decided upon by City Clerk Robin Powell.

"I thank Robin for standing in the gap when W.J. wasn't here," said Pastor Bill Wesley.

Wesley is pastor of Body of Christ Ministries where the Gross family attends. He is also chaplain of the Ravenna Police Department.

Noland did not file for re-election.

Gross and Bryant faced off in the May Republican Primary for the mayor's position, with Gross emerging as the victor.

No democrats had filed for that office.

Gross will now serve the remainder of Noland's term, until January 1 when he will be sworn in for a four-year term.

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James Gross, right, was sworn into the office of Irvine mayor on Friday morning, just minutes after the council unanimously voted to appoint him to fill the vacancy.



Touch A Truck?

Thursday afternoon's special Story Time at the public library was billed as Touch A Truck. Although there were plenty of trucks to touch, including a school bus, bookmobile, fire trucks, ambulance; Irvine's K-9 officer, Fritz was the most popular item at the event. Pictured with Fritz are Hayden Brown, IPD Sgt. John Sturniolo, and Ashley Rowland. This week's special program on Thursday will feature Kentucky's Weiner Dogs, Woody and Chloe. Children can choose to attend either the 1 p.m. or the 2:30 p.m. program.

Obituaries

Elmo Newton, 88

Tara Cole Tate, 35

Regina West, 55

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Trucks that children could touch were lined up in a row in the parking lot of Irvine United Methodist Church, across the street from the library. Besides Fritz, the children's second choice was Irvine's aerial truck. Once they saw that truck, they moved on to enjoy the other vehicles.

Man charged with burglary after found in vacant house

An Estill County man has been charged with second degree burglary of a vacant house.

The citation states that Deputy Roger McIntosh was dispatched to 80 Substation Road, Irvine because a neighbor saw a man enter a house.

When McIntosh arrived on the scene, he noticed the back door had been knocked down. He announced his presence and that he was a deputy sheriff as he entered through the back door.

The citation states that Brandon Keith Richardson, 28, of 111 Substation Road, came out of a room. There was an un-

capped needle in the room that Richardson walked out of.

The deputy charged Richardson with burglary because the door was kicked in and the house was empty.

Richardson was also charged with second degree criminal mischief and possession of a controlled substance.

Richardson pleaded not guilty to the charges during his arraignment on July 9. A preliminary hearing was scheduled in Estill District Court on July 18.

Bail for Richardson has been set at \$7,500 cash.

Fiscal court increases permit fees for waste haulers

Money collected to be used for litter abatement

The fiscal court amended a permit fee schedule for trucks hauling waste inside Estill County.

The new fee will be retroactive to July 1.

Judge/Executive Kevin Williams said that none of the haulers had yet paid the fee, which doubled.

It will go from \$25 to \$50 for trucks under two tons and from \$50 to \$100 for each truck over two tons.

The haulers will be given a sticker which will be placed on the truck.

Money collected from the fees will be used to clean up litter.

Magistrate Marty Snowden stated he thought the fees were too cheap.

County Attorney Rodney Davis said the haulers also pay tipping fees at the landfill. The county is also paid a tax based upon the amount of the tipping fee.

The fees will also apply to Rumpke which is now picking up residential solid waste in Estill County and hauling it to the company's landfill in Mount Sterling.

Magistrate Darrell Johnson asked that groups picking up litter to call the judge's office.

He explained that bags

were not being seen in tall grasses. When mowers come through, they cut the bags and spread the litter again.

"We're having trouble with tarping also," said Kim Dawes, Solid Waste Coordinator.

Davis said any law enforcement officer can cite trucks which do not have permits and/or tarps.

Waste haulers can be ticketed for no tarps or permits

Williams said the fiscal court will look at the penalty phases at upcoming court meeting.

Tommy Mullen, Animal Shelter Director, was also appointed as Assistant Solid Waste Coordinator.

Williams said this is being done by other counties. While Mullen is traveling the roads for his animal shelter duties, he can also observe solid waste issues.

The fiscal court gave first reading to an ordinance es-

establishing a 3 percent transient tax. It will place the tax on businesses, such as hotels and bed and breakfasts.

A seven member Tourism Commission will be appointed. Three members will be appointed by the Hotel Hospitality Commission, one by the Restaurant Association, one by the Estill Chamber of Commerce, one by the fiscal court and the other by the mayor of Irvine.

The court approved swapping Reges Road for Pryse Road with the state. Williams said the state will repave Pryse Road before turning it over to the county. A portion of Pryse Road is already county maintained.

The state will use Reges Road to reach other state maintained roads, including KY 499. The state will get 2.83 miles of Reges Road while the county gets 2.04 miles of Pryse Road.

Brad Goolman was appointed as county road foreman and FEMA claims director. Williams said the county has several road slips to be paid by FEMA. He stated that FEMA asked that someone from the road department be in charge of the claims.

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