

School board recognizes retirees

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"You gave us the nickel, we'll take the compensating rate," Saylor stated.

He was referring to the recallable nickle tax that was passed last year to be used for construction.

The board was updated on school construction. Roofing materials have not been received because of a delay from the manufacturer. The board may be asked to extend the completion date on the roofer's contracts at the next board meeting because of the delay.

Saylor announced a basketball celebration is planned for December in recognition of Irvine High School winning the district championship in 1948, its 70 year anniversary. Everyone is encouraged to wear Irvine's

black and gold. The band will play the Irvine High fight song.

Employees who retired after December and before Thursday were recognized. Those not present include Kelly Abney, 21 years in the district office and special education at the high school; Mildred Brandenburg, eight years at South Irvine; Jamie Day, teacher at high school and middle school and counselor at the high school after 27 years; Rebecca Click, teacher at the middle school and counselor at the middle school, South Irvine, and Estill Springs for 29 years; Varie Pasley, a bus driver; Jeannie Elkins, payroll clerk at the central office; Ronald Frazier, custodian for 11 years at the high school; Nettie Marcum, custodian for 31

years at the high school, and Melissa Neal, teacher, librarian, and counselor at the high school.

Regular employees hired include Morgan Embry-Worrell, Mindy St. Pierre, and Jennifer Taylor, teachers at Estill Springs; Kim B. Horn, teacher at the middle school and Brittany Wynn, reading specialist at the middle school; Lauren Rader, counselor at the high school. Linda Hardy and Dessa Hays were hired as bus assistants. Rick Rogers was hired as a bus driver.

Substitute employees hired were Brittany Gilbert, Billie Johnson, and James R. Sutter, teachers; Chris Johnson, four hour custodian at high school; Ruby Emmert, Patty Miller and William Lynch, bus assistants; Alicia

McKinney, bus assistant/paraeducator; Shauna Plowman, bus assistant/cook/custodian; and Phyllissa Smith and Miranda Wiseman, bus assistants/drivers.

Drew Barnett was hired as the weight lifting coach at the high school. Jeff Burchfield was named assistant football coach at the high school, and Chris Osborne was selected as bass fishing coach at the high school.

Resignations were accepted from Jimmy Bonny, assistant boys basketball at the high school; Mark Brooks, West Irvine teacher; Daniel Folk, middle school teacher; April E. Riddell, bus driver; and Corey Stringfield, teacher at the high school.

A leave of absence was granted for Amanda Adams, an Estill Springs teacher.

Arsenic removal

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Once the park is cleaned up, Tipton hopes the city learns if CSX will lease it or sell it to the city.

She added that businesses on the same side of Main Street as the park are not affected by the arsenic clean-up.

The Dollar General property is mostly all concrete and parking lot. The service station is also nearly all concrete.

A restaurant has a concrete parking area but also a grassy area.

However, standards of the metals tested in the park are much higher for industry.

The park was tested at the residential rate, instead of the industrial rate.

Playground equipment will be removed from the park and stored.

CSX will hire a company to dig up a foot of dirt and replace it.

The contaminated dirt will be disposed of properly.

Fiscal court takes care of business

Tax Increase hearing held by Library Board

A lengthy fiscal court meeting was held Monday which prompted Judge/Executive Kevin Williams to ask the fiscal court to meet on the first and third Mondays of each month.

No action was taken on that issue at Monday's meeting, but a special meeting will be scheduled.

The fiscal court meeting followed a half-hour hearing on a four percent proposed property tax increase by the public library.

Most of those present spoke against the four percent tax.

Delores Rowland, editor of The Estill County Tribune, asked how much of a carryover did the library have.

Librarian Kathy Watson responded the library has about \$1.9 million which is earmarked for the new library.

Several in the audience criticized the library board for purchasing the old Kroger building to be renovated into the library.

Watson stated they wanted to keep the library in downtown Irvine. She mentioned one other site they were unable to attain.

Others mentioned that the burden of services was on property owners. Watson said this was the library's main source of income.

Watson said the library has taken the compensating rate, which gives approximately the same revenue each year, since 2012.

This move may have been prompted by former Judge/Executive Wallace Taylor, who criticized taxing districts for taking the four percent increase while

having large balances.

A taxing district is required to hold a hearing on the four percent tax increase, but there is no voter recall. The four percent increase is an increase in revenue and the rate is dependent upon tax assessments.

Watson said fewer than 4,000 residents have library cards, but the library provides some services which do not require a library card.

No one in the audience disputed the quality of services at the library, but Debra Cox spoke of the wonderful things being done at the library.

Judge Williams announced that state Commissioner Stivers was coming to Estill County on Sept. 13.

Joe Crawford, director of Estill Development Alliance, updated the fiscal court on upcoming activities.

He also mentioned the steam engine museum that was dedicated in May.

"This is moving at light-speed when compared to most things," he stated.

The county's administrative ordinance was updated on a drug and alcohol free workplace, use of social networking, and vehicle use.

A prisoner contract was approved with Three Forks Regional Jail for \$32 per day per prisoner effective Sept. 1 through August 31, 2019.

The county accepted rock and asphalt bids from Hinkle, the only bidder.

They also discussed surplus items, including bio tanks, building in Ravenna, and county vehicles.

Permission was given to Williams to purchase cars for jail transport and senior citizen center.

Boys' soccer coach is arrested

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After an investigation, Kentucky State Police arrested the boys' soccer coach, Andrew J Hatton, 28, of Blackburn Road, Irvine last Tuesday.

Hatton was charged with five counts of third degree rape, two counts of prohibited use of electronic communication system to procure minor: sex offense, two counts of possession of matter portraying sexual performance by minor; and three counts of distributing obscene material to minors.

He was originally lodged in the Madison County Detention Center but was transferred to the Three Forks Regional Jail in Beattyville.

Hatton was arraigned by video from the jail in Estill District Court last Wednesday. His attorney, Randy O'Neill of Richmond, entered not guilty pleas for Hatton on all charges.

Hatton's bail was set at \$50,000 cash and family members posted that amount on Wednesday af-

ternoon. He was then released from custody.

District judge William Leach has scheduled a preliminary hearing for Hatton at 11:30 a.m., August 22.

Both juvenile victims are members of the girls' soccer team.

Supt. of Schools Jeff Saylor said Hatton had been an assistant soccer coach from 2011 through 2016. In 2017, he was named as the boys head soccer coach.

His mother, Candie Radar, was the girls' head soccer coach.

Saylor said that during this time, the boys and girls soccer coaches worked together.

Hatton has been terminated as boys' soccer coach.

The school superintendent said that Hatton was hired just this year as an administrative assistant at Estill County Middle School.

Channel 18 reported that Hatton had been a substitute teacher in Estill Schools.

The investigation is continuing by KSP Detective Charles Brandenburg.

Local Police Activity Report

Nineteen year old Aaron Stone of Sand Hill Road, Irvine was arrested Thursday and charged with two counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, by Irvine Police Chief Brad Smith.

Two citations state that on July 24 and 27, a cooperating witness working for the Irvine Police Department purchased methamphetamine from Stone.

Both transactions allegedly took place on Main Street in Ravenna.

Bail for Stone was set at \$20,000 cash.

Court records state that Stone was arrested on a new offense while he had a case pending.

Stone was arraigned Friday in Estill District Court. He entered a not-guilty plea. He will return for a preliminary hearing on August 20.

• Amber Danielle

Shanks, 21, of Richmond was arrested following a traffic stop on Richmond Road and Bypass.

A citation by Irvine Officer Colton Lewis states that Shanks' vehicle was called in as driving reckless on the Richmond Road.

The officer stated he saw the vehicle turn left from the straight lane and cut off three vehicles.

The citation states that driver failed field sobriety tests.

Consent was given to search the vehicle. Suspected methamphetamine was reportedly found in the woman's purse.

Shanks was charged with reckless driving, operating a motor vehicle under the influence, and possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense.

• Randall B. Jones, 29, of Walton, Ky. was arrested

following a traffic stop in Meade's parking lot on River Drive last Wednesday.

Officer Lewis said Jones' vehicle had only one working tail light and one brake light. There was also an active warrant for Jones' arrest.

The officer reportedly found a bag of suspected methamphetamine, three needles, a meth pipe and a marijuana pipe during a search of Jones and his vehicle.

Jones was charged with no tail lamps, operating a motor vehicle under the influence, possession of a controlled substance, first degree and second offense, drug paraphernalia - buy/possess, and no brake lights.

During his arraignment last Wednesday, Jones pled not guilty to all five charges. He will return for a preliminary

hearing on August 20.

• A passenger in a traffic stop on Richmond Road was arrested by Officer Lewis on Thursday.

The officer said that Michael Lee Adams, 19, gave him an incorrect birthday. There was also an active Estill County warrant on him.

A search of the vehicle turned up a small bag of a crystal like substance, suspected to be methamphetamine. The citation states that Adams took ownership of the bag.

Adams was charged with giving the officer false identifying information and possession of a controlled substance, first degree and second offense.

Adams pled guilty during his arraignment on August 17. He is scheduled to return to court on August 20 for a preliminary hearing.

Audit released of Clerk's Fee Account

State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the audit of the 2016 financial statement of Estill County Clerk Sherry L. Fox. State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements and excess fees of the Estill County Clerk in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The clerk's financial statement did not follow this format.

However, the clerk's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology. This reporting methodology is followed for all 120 clerk audits in Kentucky.

As part of the audit process, the auditor must comment on noncompliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The auditor must also comment on material

weaknesses involving internal control over financial operations and reporting.

The audit contains the following comment:

The Estill County Clerk's Office lacks adequate segregation of duties: The county clerk's office lacks adequate segregation of duties. This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as Finding 2015-002.

The county clerk prepares all weekly and monthly reports, signs all checks, performs all bookkeeping duties, and prepares all bank reconciliations. According to the county clerk, due to a small staff size, the responsibilities of receiving, recording, depositing, disbursing, reporting, and reconciling funds are delegated to the same individual.

Since only one person performs these functions, there is no assurance that financial transactions are accurate, complete, and free of error/misstatement. It increases the risk of undetected fraud and errors.

The functions of receiving, recording, depositing,

disbursing, reporting, and reconciling should be separated whenever possible in order to decrease the risk of undetected errors, misstatements, and fraud. If, due to a small staff size duties cannot be adequately segregated, the county clerk could implement and document compensating controls to reduce the risk of inadequate segregation of duties. Examples of compensating controls include: another employee comparing daily checkout sheet to receipts ledger and bank deposit, reviewing bank reconciliations for accuracy, reviewing invoices prior to payment, and reviewing all financial reports. The employee could document the review process by initialing reports and supporting documentation.

We recommend the county clerk segregate the duties of receiving, recording, depositing, disbursing, reporting, and reconciling funds or implement and document compensating controls to offset this control deficiency.

County Clerk's Response: With limited of-

fice staff, we try our best to double check all work and reports that we can.

The county clerk's responsibilities include collecting certain taxes, issuing licenses, maintaining county records and providing other services. The clerk's office is funded through statutory fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The audit report can be found on the auditor's website at http://apps.auditor.ky.gov/Public/Audit_Reports/Archive/2016EstillFEC-PR.pdf.

Cain files for Council; Covey for school board

After the Tribune deadline last Tuesday, Julian Cain filed to run for a seat on the Ravenna City Council.

This brings to 12 the number of candidates seeking one of the six seats on the council for a two year term.

Bryan Covey filed to run for School Board in District 5. Covey will be unopposed unless someone files to run as a write-in candidate.

4 waive indictments on the Rocket Docket

Four persons waived indictments on August 16 to enter pleas via the Rocket Docket program.

Sheena Tackett, 32, of White Pine Lane, Ravenna, plead guilty to possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense. She allegedly possessed methamphetamine on June 16.

Circuit Judge Michael Dean ordered that Tackett receive deferred prosecution.

Loretta Turner, 39, of Richmond waived an indictment for receiving stolen property over \$500. The waiver states that she had a 1995 Toyota car in her possession on August 1 that had been reported stolen by Jeffrey Chaney.

She pled guilty and was sentenced. A probation order was entered.

Jennifer G. Pryor, 35, of Trotting Ridge Road, Irvine waived an indictment for possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense. She allegedly had meth in her possession on August 1.

A diversion order was entered after she pled guilty on the rocket Docket program.

Anthony Newman, 45, of Lincoln Avenue, Irvine waived an indictment for trafficking in a controlled substance (suboxone) within 1000 feet of a school on August 2.

Newman plead guilty to this and two others citations. He was sentenced and judgment entered.

Zackery T. Jones pled guilty to rear license not illuminated, reckless driving, driving DUI suspended license, operating a motor vehicle under the influence, failure of owner to maintain required insurance, no/expired insurance, and possession of an open alcohol beverage container in the vehicle.

He was sentenced and judgment entered.

Jeremy Barnes pled guilty to possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense. He was sentenced August 16