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County clerk takes office 6 days early



County Clerk Brian Crowe was sworn in on Thursday to take over the clerk's office on January 1. He poses for a new photo with new staff members, left to right: Samantha Puckett, Lyndsey Shearer, and Morgan Powell. Two veteran employees are not pictured but are remaining in the office to work for Crowe. They are Kim Charles and Janice Harper. County Clerk Sherry Fox retired on December 31 as did employees, Karen Rogers and Rosetta Winkler.

Thursday was a big day for Brian Crowe, who was elected Estill County Clerk in the November election.

Crowe was sworn in as clerk, for when the doors reopen this Thursday.

He should have taken the office next Monday, January 7. The law states the term of county officials begins the first Monday of January. City mayor and council terms began on January 1.

County Clerk Sherry L. Fox had announced last January that she was retiring and would not be seeking re-election. Crowe and quite a few others ran for that position on both the republican and democratic tickets.

Crowe, 50, has worked the last 22 years in the office of Irvine Municipal Utilities (IMU).

Not only will Crowe be new to the office, three fifths of his staff are also new.

County clerks Janice Harper and Kim Charles are continuing to work in the clerk's office.

The other two clerks, Karen Rogers and Rosetta Winkler, also retired at the end of December.

"It's time for me to go to the house," Rogers stated. She added that she was 70 years old.

Both retiring women worked in the front office and issued vehicle license tags.

Crowe plans to cross-train all five employees on the duties of the clerk's office.

"The more everybody knows, the better off we are," Crowe stated. His motto is "Work Smarter, Not Harder."

The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, January 11 and 12 for all the employees to go to training in Frankfort on issuing licenses for vehicles.

Ms. Fox spent her last two days in the office train-

ing the three new employees on issuing vehicle plates and tags.

Besides vehicle license plates and decals, the clerk's office issues marriage, fishing and hunting licenses.

The clerk's office is in charge of all things to do with elections, including counting the votes.

Harper is the employee who usually issues marriage, fishing and hunting licenses. She also records deeds and handles the paperwork for notaries of the public.

Charles works in the deed room where deeds are recorded in large books, along with fiscal court records.

Mortgages and liens are also recorded in books, and wills are filed in bank safety deposit boxes.

In the last few years, deeds and other information became available electronically in the office.

The office also collects delinquent property taxes. Each year, Fox advertised a sale of delinquent taxes on properties. This is required by state law.

The funds are then distributed to the appropriate agencies.

Since he was elected in November, Crowe has job-shadowed Sherry Fox every chance he had.

He went to a state training for new clerks one weekend. He and Fox also attended a three-day clerk's convention in Louisville.

He is waiting until he gets into the office to see if changes are needed to be made. He does plan on using a large screen to project election results.

Crowe is married to the former Kristi Wolfenbarger, who owns her own beauty salon. They are the parents of two sons, Blake, and Tanner, a student at Berea College.

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SI resident arrested for trafficking

A South Irvine man was arrested the day after Christmas by the Irvine Police Department and charged with drug trafficking.

According to the citation, a confidential informant working for IPD met Chester Eugene Taylor, 34, of Lincoln Ave. on December 8. The informant bought \$40 worth of a crystal substance from Taylor.

The citation adds that Taylor had a syringe cap in his plants pocket.

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Sheriff Chris Flynn, right, was sworn in Thursday by Judge/Executive Kevin Williams, left. He began his term at 12:01 a.m. on January 1st. The sheriff's office at the courthouse will be closed on the 1st and 2nd due to the holiday and tax turnover procedures that have to be completed. The office will be re-opened on the 3rd, but collection of property taxes may be delayed until the Dept. of Revenue completes their tax collection reports. Penalty fees on taxes will be waived for the first day that Flynn can begin to collect them. If you have any questions, feel free to call Flynn's cell phone at 606-643-5996 or the office phone at 723-2323.

Obituaries

- Wayne Courtney, 82
- Bonnie Dunaway, 79
- Elsie Kirby, 99
- Ruby Moreland, 85
- Janet Parrett, 63
- Virginia Samples, 78
- William Smith, 88
- Ramona Wells, 60
- Linda Willis, 60
- David Winburn, 78

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New Obits at EstillTribune.com

AG rules Ravenna violated law on special meetings

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter

For the second year in a row a complaint has been filed with the attorney general's office against the city of Ravenna by Councilman William Van Cleve.

In the complaint Van Cleve reported that Mayor Estine Tipton and the Ravenna council failed to comply with the guidelines listed in the Open Meetings Act.

In November, during the regular monthly meeting there were not enough council members in attendance to form a quorum. The meeting was rescheduled for the following Wednesday at noon.

In his complaint, Van Cleve alleges that he was not properly notified of the special meeting and did not receive notification of the meeting until 5 p.m. the day before the special meeting.

Van Cleve also alleges that the notification he received was not dated and failed to include the agenda of the special meeting.

In a report released on December 21st by Attorney General Andy Beshear's office, it states that the Ravenna City Council violated the Open Meetings Act, KRS 61.846(1) by not responding to Van Cleve's complaint in a timely manner.

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Carhartt employee, Philip Thomas, presented a \$5,000 check donation to the Estill Fiscal Court at a recent meeting. The check is designated for a picnic shelter at the Kentucky River Park. Also pictured are Judge/Executive Kevin T. Williams and Magistrate Marty Snowden. William Hardy, Carhartt employee, is not pictured.