

Betty Young's Times Remembered Page 3

Estill Middle Team Photos Page 15



Jay Bicknell's Wanderings from the Woods & Water Page 4

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Grand jury will hear charge of Rescue Squad dog's killing

The case of a man accused of killing a service animal has been sent to the Estill County Grand Jury. This action came after a preliminary hearing was held last Wednesday for Charles H. Collins, 59, of Kiskey Branch, Irvine. Collins has been accused of killing Hunter, a dog used for tracking missing persons by the Estill County Rescue Squad. Many other rescue dogs and their handlers were in court Wednesday in support of Hunter, a blood hound. Hunter went missing around January 6, when its owner, David Conrad, let

him outside to use the bathroom. After he didn't return, rescue teams went looking for Hunter. A court citation states that Conrad found Hunter laying in the road in front of Collins' home. He had been shot to death. Collins was arrested January 7 by KSP Trooper Casey Caudill who charged him with first degree assault on a service animal and second degree cruelty to animals. The citation states that Deputy Chris Coffey found blood in the roadway and a shell casing in Collins' yard. A neighbor told the

trooper that she witnessed the dog being shot. She allegedly told the trooper the dog was walking down the road, and Collins shot at him twice from his yard. Hunter was struck by one shotgun blast. The citation states that Collins told the trooper that he did not want to talk to him, but further stated the dog deserved it as it had been on his property. According to the citation, the dog was in the roadway when it was shot. If the grand jury does not indict Collins within 60 days from last Wednesday, January 16, the charges

against him can be temporarily dismissed. Because there is no time limitation on a felony, the grand jury can indict any time after the 60 days have passed. The charge of first degree assault on a service animal is a Class D felony. If found guilty of that charge, Collins could face one to five years in prison and/or be fined. The other charge is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and/or a fine. Collins was lodged in Three Forks Regional Jail. His bail has been set at \$5,000 fine.



Frankie Joe Muncy was among a group of students from West Irvine Intermediate School who gave a presentation to school board members on Thursday night. Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

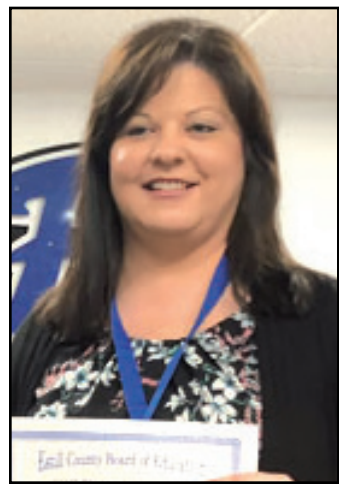
School board meets, recognizes teachers, students



JoLin Owens



Kristy Floyd



Allyson Banks



Traci Baber

by CATHY DAWES
Tribune Staffwriter
Several people were recognized on Thursday night during the monthly school board meeting. Matthew Robertson, Kim Plowman, and Rodney Davis were recognized as Mountain Movers of the month. (Their photos appear on Page 2.) The board went on to recognize four teachers from the district who recently received their National Board Certifications. JoLin Owens, Traci Baber, Kristy Floyd, and Allison Banks are the first teachers to receive their certifications according to Superintendent Jeff Saylor. He stated that when he came on board four years ago there was no one in the district who had achieved this and now there are currently four with their certifications and nine others who are currently enrolled in the program. Assistant Superintendent Tonia Isaacs added that it is

a difficult process that includes lots of research and writing. The tests are only graded once a year and the four individuals got the news that they had passed sometime before Christmas. Isaacs added that she is extremely proud of them. Mr. Saylor said that each one of the recipients would receive a \$2,000 stipend from the state and would also include a \$5,000 to \$6,000 pay raise. A small group of students from West Irvine were in attendance to show board members how they have implemented a five step learning process into their every day learning. Principal Charlotte Arvin said that it was part of the continuous classroom improvement. Tillie Osborne, Avery Graves, Ella Hardy, Gabby Bowling, Frankie Muncy, Alissa Moats, and Joe Dunaway took turns explaining the new system of learning to board members.

School board members were also recognized during the meeting. Mr. Saylor said that the individuals on the board are elected by the people of the county and undergo rigorous training by the Kentucky School Board Association. He added that they are quality people willing to step up and be a voice for the children of Estill County. Belinda Puckett updated the board on the 2018 nutrition and physical activity report card. She said at this time all schools are providing meals that are one hundred percent whole grain with fruits and vegetables and skim milk. They have also implemented a second chance breakfast program at the high school that has raised the number of students eating breakfast by fourteen percent. Puckett said that she is hoping to start this program at the middle school as well. A change order for one

of the construction projects for a 14 day extension was approved by the board. The change order will give the construction company a little extra time to complete the project due to inclement weather. A payout in the amount of \$158,400 was also approved for the roofing project at the middle school. Mr. Saylor said that they are slowly taking care of facility needs in the district and once it is completed it should be one of the best in the state. Board member Donna Isfort was nominated to serve on the district facility planning committee. Three community members were also chosen to serve on the board and Mr. Saylor said that ten people had showed interest in serving on the committee. The board approved the hiring of Porter, Banks, Baldwin, and Shaw from Prestonburg as the new school board attorney. **Continued on Page 2**

Obituaries
William Baber, 93
Edwin Fowler, 60,
Billy Isaacs, 75
Dorothy Lucas, 88
Ashley Philapy, 29
Grace Puckett, 79
Raymond Shawn Reinhardt, 39
Dr. Bengamin Stigall, 93
See Page 6
New Obits at EstillTribune.com

Full Steam Ahead



Chris Campbell, president of Kentucky Steam Heritage Corp., explained what is being planned for the Ravenna site. This will eventually include a museum and other tourist attractions. Campbell's remarks came after a public hearing for an EPA brownfields grant. If the corporation receives the grant, the funds will be used to remove soil and replace it at the site. Campbell said the soil tests did not show anything alarming. A lot of coal was transported through Ravenna, so the brownfields grant will help to clean up the coal and other contaminants. The group will soon lay rails to connect the car shop (drawing top right) with existing railroad tracks. Campbell stressed the importance of rails for recruiting industry.