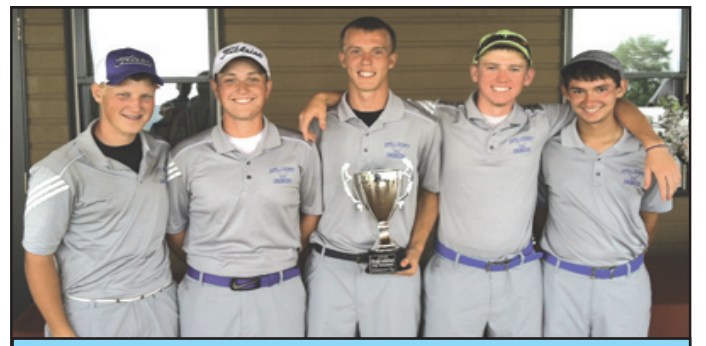




Patriots Scrimmage Bath - Page 15



A foggy Estill County August morning



Estill Is Runner-Up - Pages 14 & 15

# The Estill County Tribune 50¢

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IRVINE & RAVENNA, KENTUCKY 40336

16 PAGES

## School board to take property tax increase

by CATHY DAWES  
The Estill County Tribune

Members of the Estill County school board met in special session on Thursday, August 8, 2013 to discuss the tax rate for 2013-2014 on property, motor vehicles, and watercrafts in the county.

According to documentation the tax rate has not been raised in the county since

the 2008-2009 school year. The board had voted on the compensating rate each year since then.

Superintendent Bert Hensley stated that if the board voted to accept the compensating rate this year at 43.1 percent, the district would have to take a \$175,000 loss from last year. Hensley said that there were several areas that needed at-

tention and it would never happen if the tax rate was not increased.

He added that he had been approached by parents in recent years about updating the tennis courts and the track at the high school as well as new bleachers so the band would be able to hold competitions at home. He also said that artificial turf on the football field would

allow all sports teams to be able to utilize the field instead of practicing and playing all over the county.

Hensley stressed that all money that was acquired from raising the tax rate would go into the construction fund and would not be used for salaries.

"We've been taking the compensating rate for so long that we are back ped-

ing," added Patty Hood.

Hensley explained that if the board agreed to the subsection 1 with exoneration on the taxes it would raise property taxes \$87 per \$100,000 of the assessed value of the property. He added that parents will be saving that much money this year because of the district wide free lunch program.

"I don't think anyone likes

to raise taxes," said Charlie Bill Muncy, "but they're gonna' waste that much money anyway, 'cause I know I do."

The board put it to a vote and all were in favor of the four percent tax increase except board member Jon Bicknell. Members agreed to keep the tax rate on motor vehicles and watercrafts the same as last year.

Continued on Page 3

## Wet/dry vote is set for Tuesday, Oct. 8

A date has now been set for a wet/dry vote in Irvine.

Last Friday, August 8, Judge/Executive Wallace Taylor signed an order to schedule the election for Tuesday, October 8.

A group, Boost Irvine, presented a petition to County Clerk Sherry Fox on July 22. Fox verified the petition has been signed by 271 voters in Irvine and

turned the petition over to Taylor on July 24. Two hundred thirty voters were needed.

The petition had asked that the election be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, but Kentucky law specifies that elections be held on Tuesday.

The wet/dry vote was defeated in January during a county wide vote, and the

law says it must be another three years before another election can be held in the county.

Ms. Fox stated that Irvine is legally considered a different area than the county, which will allow for the wet/dry vote to be held in city limits.

Only voters living in Irvine city limits will be eligible to vote in this election.



Irvine Councilmember Tobo Bryant (background) listens as Sandy Hill CPA explains why the city of Irvine is four, going on five, years behind in the city's audit. See Story on Page 3.

## Man arrested at scene of burglary

A Nelson County man was arrested at a burglary scene in Estill County on Thursday morning.

The victim arrived at her residence at 4:37 a.m. and found a man inside, according to Deputy Russell Morris.

The deputy added the man had knocked two holes in a wall of the residence, causing damages under \$500.

He stated the man did not have permission to be at this residence, and the man was also drinking vodka.

The arrested man was identified as David A. McIntosh, 30, of Bloomfield, Ky.

Deputy Morris charged McIntosh with second degree burglary, which is a felony, criminal mischief third degree, and alcohol intoxication.

McIntosh was arraigned in Estill District Court on August 9. He pleaded not guilty to the three charges against him.

Bail for McIntosh has been set at \$10,000 cash. He is scheduled to return to district court on Wednesday for a preliminary hearing.

Deputy Morris also served a Nelson County warrant on McIntosh after he was arrested.

## Ravenna council wants to lower property taxes

by CATHY DAWES  
The Estill County Tribune

The Ravenna City Council met on Monday, August 12, 2013 and the hot topic on the agenda for the month was the property tax rate for the city of Ravenna.

Councilman William VanCleve made the suggestion that property taxes be lowered due to the fact that the city has close to the highest tax rates in the state of Kentucky.

Currently, residents that live in Ravenna have a tax rate of five percent which means that they are required to pay fifty cents per hundred dollars of the assessed value of their property.

Mayor Estine Tipton said

that she had served on the council for sixteen years and the property tax had not been raised during that time.

City clerk Susan Lay addressed the council and stated, "If you lower the tax rate you're going to be cutting into the revenue and we've already taken one big cut this year."

VanCleve said that he thought the solution would be to cut expenses in other areas to save the taxpayers money on their bills. He also had made a motion in a previous meeting to lower the insurance tax rate by 2.5 percent. At the time, the city of Ravenna had one of the highest insurance tax rates in the state of Kentucky.

Councilman Louis Officer said that he owned four pieces of property in Ravenna and he said that he paid outrageous taxes on those properties. He said that he had a mobile home that was close to twenty years old and the PVA had assessed its value at \$38,000 and there was no way that the property was worth that. He said that if he tried to resell those properties, he would never be able to get that much money out of them.

VanCleve said that the whole city of Ravenna was reassessed last year and the PVA raised the value of properties within the city \$476,000.

Continued on Page 2

## Tools stolen from construction site

The Estill County Sheriff's Department is investigating the theft of a large number of tools.

The theft was reported by Bruce Cope of Berea, owner of Bruce Cope Builders, Inc.

The tools, both hand and power tools, were valued at an estimated \$6,785.00. They were in a construction trailer at a site on Shallow

Creek Lane, off Sunrise Valley.

According to the report, someone illegally entered Cope's construction trailer and removed the tools from it.

Besides hand tools, other tools taken include a framing nailer, a cordless drill, a cordless saws-all, an impact wrench, batteries and char-

gers, chain saw, chop saw, and a generator. The generator does not have a handle, and some of the tools have Cope's name written on them.

Anyone with information on any of these tools is asked to call the sheriff's office at 723-2323 during business hours or 723-2201 after hours.



All the rain has brought out fungi and mushrooms in all colors and shapes this summer.

## Miss Estill County joins the Navy

by CATHY DAWES  
The Estill County Tribune

Eighteen year old Tierra Murphy was crowned Miss Estill County in July during the annual beauty pageant. In February 2014, Murphy will trade her crown and sash in for a uniform when she leaves her hometown to travel hundreds of miles away from home to train with the Navy.

Murphy said that while she was in middle school she thought about joining the military after she graduated, but after receiving a phone call during her senior year of high school, she started thinking about it more seriously.

Murphy is the daughter of Willie and Sherry Murphy and said that she has never spent any great length of time away from her parents. She said that even though

they are very sad about her being gone for five months they are also very proud of what she will be doing while she is away from home.

She said that serving her country is very important to her but so is getting an education. She will begin classes at EKU on August 20, 2013 and will complete one full semester before leaving for boot camp on February 10th. Murphy said that once she completes the 5-month training in Illinois, she will return to EKU to finish her education. As an added bonus her school expenses will be paid for and she will be able to get her books for free at the veterans bookstore on campus.

Murphy plans to be an electricians mate in the Navy which she explained is the equivalent to an electrical engineer. She will study pre-

vet biology while at Eastern with hopes to have a career in the veterinary field.

Being a member of the Navy Reserves, Murphy said that active members of the Navy would be called out first to serve their country, however, she could volunteer at any time to be deployed if she wanted to go.

Being the current Miss Estill County, Murphy said that she believes that the military field is a good image for Estill County and to show others that even if you're from a small town you can achieve your goals.

She added that any student that is interested in joining the military that she would be more than happy to talk to them and give them as much information about the field as possible and she would also refer them to her recruiter.



Tierra Murphy was crowned Miss Estill County in June of this year. She is trading her crown for a sailor's hat and uniform.

### Obituaries

- Elsie Campbell, 96
  - J.D. Keith, 70
  - James Palmer, 77
  - Raymond Reichel Jr., 80
  - Orville Richardson, 93
  - David Glen White, 55
  - Vina Woolery, 75
- See Page 6

