

School Board meets to set '13 tax rates

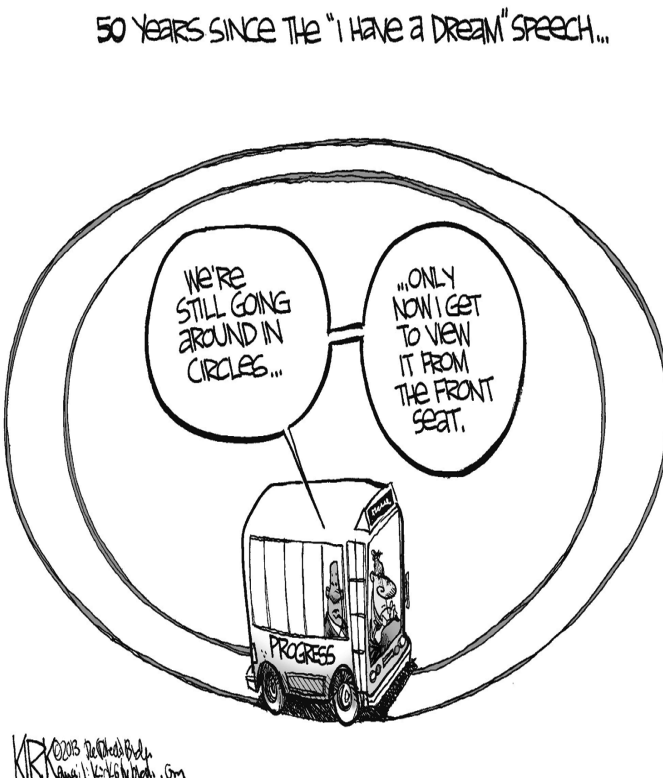
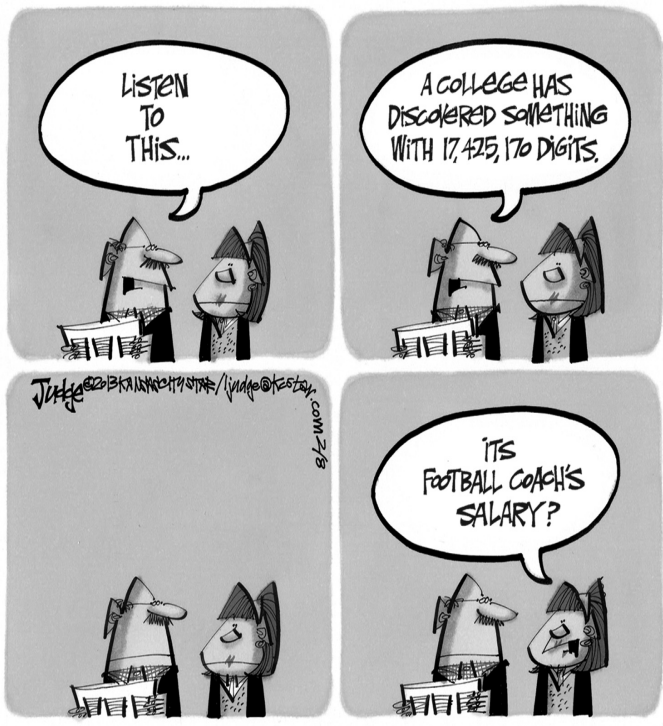
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In other action, the school board discussed high school construction projects and bond sales. The board was informed of recent personnel actions. Corey Stringfield was hired as a teacher at the high school. Three students were hired as coop student tech. II's. Michaela Gross will be at Estill Springs, and Cole Warm and Jarrett Wilson will be working at West Irvine. Substitute cooks hired were Christy Horn, Dana Klein, and Melissa Puckett. Cecelia Forehand will be called to substitute as both a cook and paraeducator. Roy Fowler, Devina Neal, and Beverly Rose were hired as bus assistants. Kristi Muncie will be a substitute nurse, and William C. Muncy a substitute teacher. Kierra Norman was hired as colorguard instructor at the high school, and Ryan Wiseman will be the first assistant football coach at the middle school. Resignations were accepted from Karen Baker and Donald Norton, Co-assistants academic at the middle school, Brian Crowe, head baseball coach at middle school, Kimberly Harrison, teacher (MOA), Candrea Johnson, teacher at high school; and William Wiseman, head softball coach at the middle school.

Pilot Program to Speed Claims

VETERANS POST by Freddy Groves

Veterans with a claim lost in the pile at the Department of Veterans Affairs will be interested in a pilot program about to be launched. The American Bar Association and Legal Services Corporation are joining with the VA to help veterans get faster decisions on their claims -- for free. This pro bono program will provide attorneys to unrepresented veterans who need help with portions of their claims that require evidence to be gathered. According to a VA news release, the development stage of assembling a claim can be the longest part, taking more than 200 days. The first steps in the pilot program will open at the Regional Offices in St. Petersburg, Fla., and Chicago. Veterans at other locations also might be included if circumstances warrant it. The plan is for the program to spread quickly across the country. It appears, however, that veterans can't ask to be included. The VA will select claims for the program that can benefit from the legal intervention. Those veterans will get a letter asking if they'd like to participate. The letter will list all the possible options for representation, such as Veteran Service Organizations -- and the free lawyers. Those veterans also will be told of a free hotline phone number to call to find legal representation. The attorneys will receive training, with the end goal of putting together complete "ready to approve" claims. Attorneys and veterans will be linked up based on location and complexity of the claim. Watch your mail for a letter from the VA if you live in the two pilot locations and have a claim in. This is just one of the steps the VA is taking to clear the claims backlog by 2015, and on the surface, it sounds good. Fingers crossed. Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to columnreply2@gmail.com. (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.



The second annual Revive River Drive was held on Saturday, August 31st. Traffic was bumper to bumper on River Drive as people came out to cruise the strip and socialize with friends. Tribune Photo/Cathy Dawes

Deputy investigates burglary reported by owner Aug. 26 on Furnace Junction

A burglary at an outbuilding is being investigated. It was reported at the residence of Jon Rogers of Furnace Junction on Monday, August 26.

A chain saw and a pressure washer were taken from Rogers' outbuilding. Deputy Josh Rison is investigating and the intruder's entry into the outbuilding has not been determined.

The owner of a closed Mexican restaurant is now facing a charge for theft by deception.

A warrant was obtained for the arrest of Antonio Trevino of 675 Horns River Road by Embs Refrigeration.

The warrant states that Trevino issued a check for payment of goods or services to Embs Refrigeration on February 7, 2013, knowing the check would not be honored.

The check was for \$559.20. Embs Refrigeration also has fees of \$130 making the total loss \$689.20.

Theft by deception over \$500 is a Class D felony, punishable by one to five years in jail.

Trevino's bond was set August 22 at \$700 cash.

One condition of the bond is that anyone posting the bond agrees to allow it to be applied toward restitution.

A contractor is now in jail after \$616 worth of items came up missing on August 1.

Irvine Officer Karl Rifenbark obtained a warrant for Christopher Lawrence Stone, 29, of 527 Laurel Street.

Stone is charged with theft by unlawful taking or disposition, a Class D felony.

According to the warrant, Stone was doing renovation work to Kathy Watson's home. It adds that Watsons came up missing a gold locket and twisted gold chain, a 10k diamond ring, a Dewalt circular saw, \$15.00 in cash and a check book with 24 checks.

The warrant for Stone's arrest was served August 24 by Constable Danny Conrad.

Bail for Stone was set at \$5,000 cash.

Stone was arraigned Monday in Estill District Court. He entered a not-guilty plea. A preliminary hearing will be held on Sept. 4.

An Estill resident is charged with making false statements to prevent reduction of benefits.

A warrant for Eric R. Young's arrest was obtained by Emma Wireman, a state investigator.

Young, 31, of 100 Dug Hill Road, Irvine was arrested August 26.

The warrant states that between June 26, 2010 and July 10, 2010, Young received \$2,203.00 in unemployment ben-

efits while working for Woodall Construction Co.

Making a false statement to prevent the reduction of benefits over \$100.00 is a Class D felony.

A \$5,000 surety bond was set for Young on Monday. His next court appearance is set for Sept. 4.

Young made his first court appearance Monday. He pleaded not-guilty during the arraignment and will return to court for a preliminary hearing on Sept. 11.

A deputy sheriff arrested a young woman on a second degree burglary charge on Sunday afternoon.

Cassandra Lee Toler, 26, of 135 Sand Hill Church Road was arrested at 6:06 p.m. on Main Street in Irvine by Deputy Randy Farthing.

The citation states that Toler unlawfully entered the home at 135 Sand Hill Church Road around 4:08 p.m. Sunday and removed items worth approximately \$600.

Toler's bond was set at \$10,000 cash.

Toler was arraigned Monday in Estill District Court. She pleaded not guilty to second degree burglary. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for September 4.

A vehicle was broken into overnight on August 20 at the residence of Ken Caldwell on South Winn Avenue, Irvine.

Caldwell told Deputy Josh Rison that his truck was parked overnight at his residence. He discovered the break-in the following morning.

The deputy says a 125 pound, red air tank was taken from the back of the truck.

Hand and power tools were taken from the front of the truck after it was broken into.

Rison is also investigating the theft of a check, reported August 22 by Tony Lamb of Conrad Estates.

Lamb said the check had been stolen from his mother on August 16. It was forged and cashed in Madison County for \$150.

A second degree burglary was reported at the residence of Adam Puckett, White Oak Road, on August 23.

Deputy Randy Farthing said that someone entered the trailer through a back door.

Puckett said the trailer had an alarm which failed to go off.

The items taken were three television sets, a 50 foot airhose, X-Box 360, Nintendo 64 and two Bass Pro model boats.

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



Young children enjoyed hoola hoops during the Sonia Doty Abel benefit car show on Saturday.